



Friday April 30, 2010 06:00 AM

GPS RUGBY	OLD SCHOOLS RUGBY	AUSSIE RUGBY STUFF	GENERAL RUGBY and SPORT STUFF	Regional College 2007/8
Under 15's	AUSSIE SCHOOLS			
GPS 2008	Under 16 2008	General 2008		SCHOOLS RUGBY 2008
JUNIOR REDS 2008/2009	PHOTOGALLERIES	GOLDEN MEN OF TALLOW		

Friday 30/04/2010: An interesting comment the other day, Sunday just gone I think, listening to the Wests Tigers vs Penrith Panthers match up, the commentator on the radio was speaking of how well Tuqiri was playing, and said "We should send all our players to rugby union, they come back better players". That's a big call from a rugby league commentator, probably mistakenly made, but nonetheless it caught my attention.

Friday 30/04/2010: You have to love these pretentious league guys. Tony Currie, who was a very, very good footballer, let's not be mistaken there, this morning in the press calling for Israel Folau to be banned from the NRL forever if he chooses to move to rugby this morning, along of course with any other players that do the same. It was OK years ago when Rugby was amateur, rugby league was there to take rugby players as they pleased to the professional code. They couldn't come back, once they went from amateur to professional, they could not come back to the rugby ranks. The NRL and rugby league can do whatever it likes, the fact is that market conditions determine a players worth, in this professional business world, and if rugby league cannot afford the best players, then it risks becoming played in suburban backwaters, whatever the fans think, and which ever code they find the most boring. I certainly wouldn't be shutting the door on any players from cross code if I was David Gallop and the NRL, in fact one of the first things I would have had a little look at was some type of

dual arrangement where a Billy Slater, Cooper Cronk and Greg Inglis could maybe play for a year or two at the Rebels and then return, dual deals have been done in England before between rugby league and rugby union, so with a bit more thought, and a move away from the conspiracy theories, I am sure there would be some merit in such a thought.

Thursday 29/04/2010: Some good news at last, someone has found Noah's Ark, and the watermark in those days must have been spectacular, it was half or three quarters of the way up a mountain somewhere. Even better news though, there is a new insecticide out that better controls these little pests in cucurbits and egg plants. That has taken a number of my worries away today, eased up the stress I had no end.

Wednesday 28/04/2010: A spectacular start to the tallow wrestling season on the Anzac day holiday Monday, saw the great man from Goondiwindi Killer Joule Ken continue to reign supreme with a raft of underhanded tactics, the Punisher put in a solid performance and Pablo Esco Fat, the 160 kilogram Colombian another disgraceful performance, just not up to it this bloke, too big, too slow, but plenty ugly. Of course you can't read those reports here on a family site, but look for our new channel on Pay TV, The Fat Channel, 20779834678 on your pay TV dial, we are there 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

Wednesday 28/04/2010: Then there was the quite ludicrous and unbelievable story, emanating from one of the "better" and "elite" education addresses, that last year in the GPS rugby teams, First XV teams that is, that Southport, TSS, fielded a 21 year old and a 22 year old in their sides, and that State High, BSHS, fielded, a 20 year old apprentice cleaner that worked at the school. While there is absolutely zero truth in the 21, 22 and 20 year olds playing football, schoolboy football mind you, the bit that gives the guy away as being a little intellectually challenged is "apprentice cleaner", that is an absolute doozy. I am yet to see in my almost half century on the planet anyone offering apprenticeships for cleaning. My source, texted me this rubbish straight away, and I texted straight back asking that the deliverer of such rumours put some names up. I was texted back immediately that this would be done. 3 weeks later now and no names have emerged. I wait and wait with such anticipation on seeing who was the apprentice cleaner, and who at 22 is still at school (I think it is a requirement that you have to be attending school is it not, even if you are apparently attending as an apprentice cleaner!!!!!!) playing first XV rugby earning zero dollars for 8 games of footy a year. It was also mentioned to the purveyor of the rumour that there were a couple of kids in the State High side closer to 15 than 18, no comment on that one either. Boundless, unfounded rumours coming out of places that supposedly stand for truth, integrity and high moral standing.

Tuesday 27/04/2010: The amount of aimless kicking in the Waratahs vs Brumbies match up was really quite difficult to digest. It seems that the Barnes methodology is now kick first, and gee there was alot of "no idea" kicking going on. Kicking with purpose I can deal with, no idea kicking drives me up the wall. NSW are becoming the kings of no idea rugby, closely followed by the Brumbies. At least we can say the Lions and the Cheetahs just lack competence, but the same cannot be attributed to NSW and the Brumbies, given the names on their rosters, and I am sure the payments made to that roster.

Tuesday 27/04/2010: Lots of conjecture about the Adam Ashley Cooper disallowed try I note. I actually agree with Walsh, except for the terminology of "double movement". I thought he was tackled, held and then crawled over, all quite quickly, but nonetheless, he didn't play the ball and has moved again to place the footy over the line. Law states you can only really reach out. So the penalty was for failing

to play the ball immediately, not a double movement as Mr Walsh has stated, but Marto gets this one right every time.

Tuesday 27/04/2010: Managed to sit through the Brumbies/Waratahs match and the scrum thing looks pretty easy to identify to me. Both Kepu and Alexander are angling in from the set up, they will continue on that path through engagement, that penalty under current laws could go either way. If you look at Alexander's bind, he is grabbing low and his elbow points straight down, which is a penalty against him. Baxter exploited that and ripped down on that arm already pointing down with his bind. Alexander does not look to be very strong, has very small arms, and Baxter has exploited his technique and weakness. Coupled with this, they are all packing with hips higher than shoulders, so really, down and in is where those groupings of forces are going to end up. And that is the way a lot of them went, in and down. Robbo (Benn the Hippo Robinson) also drives in, but he drives in and up, small technical difference seemingly, big difference in end point result. I think you will also find that Robbo binds much higher up on the shoulder blade and gets his wing or arm out and parallel to the ground. There were also a number of occasions that they were just too far apart. Then you can add that Al Baxter has always been a serial collapser and Bill Young, another serial scrum collapser and offender is scrum coach of the Brumbies, of course you are going to have trouble come scrum time. I probably could have penalized Alexander at every scrum for something in those few technical points. It is in the technique of the players, not the laws or the ref.

Sunday 25/04/2010: I listened to the interviews done with Stephen Hoiles and Berrick Barnes last night as I drove home. They were interviewed by the ABC. I missed the entire game, but putting two and two together from the interviews, it was another bore a thon. Of great interest to me though was the comments from Hoiles about collapsed scrums and reset scrums, and then blaming the Laws of the game, not the ref, not the players. I keep going back to the Brumbies scrum coach, Bill Young, who could only compete, due to lack of physical strength and technical prowess, by going to ground, he was a terrible prop. This was the way Australia scrummed in those days. Stephen, mate, it's not the fault of the laws, the ref could be a little harsher, and just blow penalties straight away, first bloke down is the first penalized for example, but in reality, the players need to keep the thing up for the contest, and therein lies the problem. If they are being coached that the first defensive method is to drop it and get the reset, then take the reset out of the game, make them stay up. Laws are fine Stephen, have a look at the players and coaching style. We all hope that the Reds smoke the Brumbies next weekend with a bonus point, as given the style of rugby the Brumbies are playing, that is what is deserved. And as Stephen Hoiles said last night, lose next week against the Reds, they won't make the finals. For the Reds this is a good thing, and for the competition this is a good thing. The big crowds at the Reds last two matches are a telling statistic as to the type of footy that needs to be played to get the paying customer through the gate, those playing negative and conservative footy fully deserve to be relegated to the bottom sections of the ladder.

Saturday 24/04/2010: Firstly on this subject, the media should be banned from interviewing players as they head to the half time oranges, but if they must interview people, there should be some they never talk to. Quade Cooper last night became one that should never be interviewed, that was positively awful, and there are others from all countries. In fact, the 15man team has often had the discussion around our very comfortable lounge room, that we live in hope that there is never a Quade Cooper

mask produced for people to use at the footy, we are not sure how that blank look gets transposed on to a piece of cardboard.

Saturday 24/04/2010: The Reds did what they had to do last night at Suncorp Stadium, in a game that took a long time to get going. Readers, if Anthony Faingaa wasn't the best on the field last night, I am an exceptionally poor judge of the game, best and brave after getting knocked senseless in the first minutes. He is the number one inside centre in Australian rugby at the moment, not necessarily the style that Deans will be looking for (second ball player) but he carts the footy straight and forwards, and smacks people, lots of them, in defence. Would like to see his stat sheet after last night, kid had a super game. Thought Cooper was quiet, but the key is he did what he had to, and what he had to do he did very well and sucked the slower, different style up. The game had been hyped up for the whole week, and games like that often become arm wrestles. The Stormers are an exceptional defensive side, and coupled with that they keep the ball for long periods when they get it. The Reds obviously believed the stats and decided to go at them differently, with a game plan they were maybe not comfortable with, but win, and win ugly they did, and there are times you have to do that. Both sides showed strong composure in defence, defence on their own lines. This Bekker kid can really play and I am not sure where, but he has to be a Springbok this year, maybe I would play him at 6. Now I have plenty to say this weekend, and it may take me until Monday to say it, but first up I want to comment, or write a full page on why I think the NRL is very wrong in the penalty handed down to the Melbourne Storm, some time I want to weigh into the GPS premiership purchasing debate with a purely practical look at it, and then some general commentary on the Super 14, refereeing over the last couple of weeks and the like. It will be mixed with the usual flashes of insanity and stupidity, just to keep things light, so keep checking back, just to see what I have to say.

Friday 23/04/2010: Bashed up enough grass fattened moths last night on the way home, that, if turned into moth biofuel, would run Australia's cars and trucks for a week. It was a veritable mothstorm.

Friday 23/04/2010: Last night I found a website that denies the existence of the internet.

Friday 23/04/2010: Huge week in Melbourne with our Southern City stealing all the news, Carl Williams first up early in the week and then the Melbourne Storm Salary Cap rorting yesterday. I would imagine that the ARU and Rebels would be worried that Mr Brian "Wally" Waldron is now tainting rugby, and I would assume he will be cut adrift this morning, if he has not already been. It was a pretty good scheme, and I am enjoying all the cries of innocence this morning, from coaches and players. The sad thing is that it delivers the massive Victorian sports market back to AFL. Positive, someone like Cooper Cronk, with a rugby background, may want to jump codes, who knows. Guys like Inglis have already said they would be bored in rugby, so they would only swap for the dough. I am not sure that he would be bored playing for a side like the Reds, Stormers, Bulls or Blues in the current rugby world either. I just note after I type that that Waldron is gone from the Rebels, and so he should be.

Thursday 22/04/2010: Conspiracy theories abound. Carl Williams is still alive and in Witness Protection. Nice one boys.

Thursday 22/04/2010: I wonder do they really put cats in Dim Sims?

Thursday 22/04/2010: I note Victorian Police, who used to shoot first and talk later, are looking into Corrections staff's bank accounts, over the Carl Williams head pulping. Now if I was a corrupt

Corrections Staffer, and I was being paid say \$100K to have a cup of tea away from CCTV monitors at a certain time on a certain day, do you think I would be looking to have it in a bank account. I think I would much prefer the paper bag passed through the windows of two cars pulled up side by side in the middle of the night, in a carpark somewhere, with a nod and a wink, or just having a bag full of notes left somewhere pre arranged. A telegraphic transfer into my account just leaves a bit of a cold hard trail that is just a bit easy to be traced.

Thursday 22/04/2010: From deep inside the chicken wire confines of the Bunker, Bobs Country Bunker, we hear calls for a cat whacking competition to take place within the said confines of the chicken wire. Idea certainly has some merit.

Thursday 22/04/2010: Tallow Wrestling 2010-Are You Man Enough is the new slogan for the year, just delivered by the marketing and legal department. Look out for the massive promotion on Foxsports, 2010 is going to be a big year for the golden grease.

Thursday 22/04/2010: Reports this morning that NSWRU gate receipts are falling (would that surprise anybody), you don't have to spend money to be bored mindless, and that they have lost money for the last couple of years, but also that the ARU lost money last year, and they are propping up these poorly performing entities. I wonder when the big pot will run completely dry.

Wednesday 21/04/2010: Also of interest upon leaving Victoria last Friday morning, and arriving back in Brisbane, the gross mismatch in petrol prices, remember the days that fuel was cheaper in Qld than, well anywhere else in the country. Prices, non shopper docket discounted all the way to Tullamarine airport, in Bob's (no relationship at all to Bob of Bob's country Bunker fame, but a very interesting character all the same) VP taxi pick up service, \$1.24 to \$1.27 per litre. Hitting the ground in Qld, \$1.33 to \$1.38 per litre, except in Toowoomba, where the freight from Brisbane to Toowoomba takes the pricing to \$1.19, non shopper docket discounted. A little more than the 8 cents extra tax in the difference in pricing too between Melbourne and Brisbane.

Wednesday 21/04/2010: Meant to mention it the other day, there was a fascinating piece on talkback radio the other night about International Frisbee throwing, it was enthralling stuff. Certainly something to show on the big screens, behind chicken wire of course, at the Bunker, Bob's Country Bunker. There is plenty of parking space for the Winnebagos at the Bunker, Bob's Country Bunker.

Wednesday 21/04/2010: Thought it was awesome to see the report the other day of Belgium's heady rise up the world rugby rankings, at 29 certainly a 2011 world cup threat. We are very interested in where Afghanistan sits in the scheme of things and other nations of similar ilk, Iraq and Iran hold great interest for us here in the Bunker, Bob's Country Bunker of course.

Wednesday 21/04/2010: Alot of mail folks, people just can't wait to see the Silver Fox in his new hot pink latex Tallow Wrestling mask, it really sets the billowing waves of silver fur off in a nice contrast. Will post pictures as soon as I have them, from the Dome. Follow the wrestling, the Tallow Wrestling of course, with an evening of entertainment and Two Up at Bob's Country Bunker, deep in the heart of redneck territory where lynchings and other such goings on are commonplace.

Wednesday 21/04/2010: The World Tallow Wrestling Federation has advised that there will be a title defence to kick off the season, the very resourceful Killer Joule Ken going head to head with The Golden Rod in a Tallow Trench Warfare Bout. Those of you that get the newsletter updates would

know just how resourceful Joule was in regaining the much coveted title, however you do need to be well over 18 and slightly bent to be receiving such newsletters, so don't just write in and ask, I would have to know you quite well and understand that you are less than normal, or maybe more than normal, don't know.

Wednesday 21/04/2010: Fresh back from a very miserable and cold Victoria, how do you folks live under those grey skies constantly, but jagged a few pics while I was down there, even though the weather was unpleasant and murky. Just whip over and have a look at a couple of my favourites from the Southern Sojourn [here](#) and [here](#). Plenty more there but I don't want to bore you too much with my extracurricular activities.

Wednesday 21/04/2010: The Reds have been poking along under the Radar, and playing very well. However this week I note the return of one of the more annoying sporting habits, the media beatup. Don't know who is responsible, but it is very distasteful and even disrespectful, and adds to the pressure. This week for example we see that Rod Davies is going to put a rocket up Bryan Habana. Tell me that is not disrespect, whoever is responsible for the stupid line. Rod Davies, who is still better known as a schoolboy sprinter, which folks believe it or not, out here in the real world means absolutely 100% of zero (best if you are a schoolboy mathematician to figure out that little equation), has played a handful of decent games in 2010, 2009 he was woeful beyond belief, yet here we see someone, a media manager (surely Davies is not that stupid) or the Courier Mail journalists, throwing a heap of disrespect to an all African African, guy can play, guy can run, and has the records to prove it, plenty of tests for South Africa, plenty of games for the Bulls and now the Stormers. Guys just get out there and play, get rid of the cute little plays on words and names, or get the journalists to, and all things will be good. The Stormers will take some beating in any man's language, so I would be sheltering in the bunker and not making any comments, that would be the Qld Reds Bunker, not Bob's Country Bunker.

Tuesday 20/04/2010: Well the Tallow Wrestling season kicks off on Monday, at the International Tallow Wrestling Dome, some big matches headline the season opener folks, Silver Fox vs the Punisher, The 150kg Colombian vs the Don, that's if the Colombian gets out of Papua New Guinea Alive. He is travelling in some dangerous areas, and at 150 plus kilos he would make a fantastic self basting spit roast. Pre match entertainment given that it is Anzac Day will be some naked two up, come to the Dome for a great long weekend finisher.

Tuesday 20/04/2010: The rain has been good for us all, but these grass fattened moths are really providing havoc for those of us that drive before the sun comes up and after it goes down, they just don't hit and stick, they hit and slide, full of grease and goodness, and then stick in long trails of mess. I would like to commission a study or project into turning the little suckers into biofuel or something along those line, providing employment for thousands, they will take a bit of catching.

Tuesday 20/04/2010: From deep inside the chicken wire confines of Bob's Country Bunker, the 15man team has witnessed the very sinister goings on of yesterday, supposedly in the secure confines of Geelong's Barwon Prison, where crime kingpin Carl Williams yesterday was bashed to death by one of his mates. Those in the "square" world just don't seem to get it, it is always going to come from someone you know well, someone that is close to you, someone you trust. Carl seems to have been perceived to have been doing the wrong thing and has taken a bicycle part to the back of the head,

several times. This news will sell many papers for some time.

Monday 19/04/2010: Fresh home now from Bob's Country Bunker, and the Reds and the Bulls played the game of the year, any code. When rugby is played like that, league really has nothing. Unfortunately, too many games are not played like that, usually anything the Brumbies and Waratahs play in this year, and at times, or most of the time, the Crusaders. The bar gets even higher this week against the Stormers, Graham Henry has got it right in saying they are the best in the competition at the moment, they have a bit of a sharper edge in attack than the Bulls. If I were selecting a Bok XV at the moment, their number 8, number 2 and big Bekker would be in, with maybe Matfield moving to 6 to accommodate the big man. Others would be in of course, but they are playing scintillating footy and it is a mouth watering clash that awaits us this week at Suncorp Stadium. The Reds could well get 30000 plus through the gate this week. Well done to them, I was one of their harshest critics, and hope this is a new era that lasts for quite a while. NSW played their most exciting game of the tournament, by not playing in the bye round. We at 15manrugby hope that they play out a boring nil all draw with 60 scrums, 100 lineouts and a penalty count somewhere in the vicinity of 50 all against the Australian Rock Star side, the Brumbies. We wish the Brumbies and the Waratahs could play a bye each week, it beats going outside and watching the grass grow.

Tuesday 13/04/2010: The school rugby debate and scholarships rages on in the Courier Mail, and still the comments flow. Here is a copy of one (and alot are not) sensible ones.

I read with interest yesterdays story, especially since I was interviewed as a father of a three year BSHS First XV player. The story about the full fee paying boy who gave up rugby after being relegated to Second XV tells a story in itself. I have a second boy who is destined to play in the B's and C's for every sport he turns his hand to, of which hes given three a go. I was proud of my older boy when he was selected for Australian Schoolboys, but I am prouder still of his brother who diligently prepares himself every weekend to be fully committed to whatever sport he's playing, organising his bag and uniform the night before. Sportsmanship is also about stickability, committment and passion. If a boy gives up Rugby because he was relegated back a team in his final year, its not that the code gave up on him for a year, he never got that message in the 4 previous to it.

I am still not quite sure what point the Courier Mail is trying to make, as they aren't uncovering anything, they seem to be vacillating around what they really want to say. Personally, my beliefs are that what the schools do, with the full knowledge of our governing bodies, and supported by them, is very, very bad for the code, as the comment I selected yesterday said, depleting and narrowing the pool. I have been advocating for years systems like the rugby league and AFL have in place, that a few wealthy private schools, plus State High, do not, can not and will not supply the depth required for five Super sides and an amateur club competition across the country. An alternative has to be found. I also do not denounce schools for being "wealthy", some of their arrogance I do not like, but you would be surprised the ones I throw in the arrogant basket. They are in business, and businesses are expected to make returns to stakeholders, profits on a number of fronts are expected. I guess as a parent, of now very adult, and very well adjusted young adults, I, and my wife looked at a number of things, but early on decided that if we were sending kids to school for rugby, the decision would be based on the wrong reasons. We are very happy and proud to have been a part of the development of

these young adults, but the school we chose played no small part in a critical part of their development. Hopefully you get my point there, as we did not choose one of the big "elite" schools, and I am attending one of them, and the place did nothing for me, except demonstrate how arrogant they really are. We were told that if you go to a school like this, you get the job first. This is quite wrong, and there is a lot about the constitution of the person in the real world that makes a person.

Tuesday 13/04/2010: The guy sitting beside me in the plane had a death resemblance more than actually looking like Bernie, never saw him breathe or move for over 2 hours. There is a story for the I remember series in today's flight I can tell you.

Tuesday 13/04/2010: Well just landed in Melbourne for the balance of the week, and another hilarious flight, suffice to say that I swear I sat next to Bernie, from Weekend at Bernie's fame, in seat 21C this morning, unbelievable, I am sure he was dead.

Monday 12/04/2010: This comment that I have typed out of the Courier Mail probably says everything I could say, and is 100% correct in broadening the playing base and kicking some of the traditions to hell:

School Rugby - particularly GPS and TAS Rugby - has effectively held back any prospect of a broader base of junior playing talent via junior rugby clubs ever since I can remember. Many parents of "non-GPS/TAS" boys have witnessed these schools telling their pupils that if they play for a club at under 16 or colts level that they will not be eligible for selection in the First XV. This causes many teams at under 16 level to fold and causes most "non GPS/TAS" kids to take up Rugby League or Soccer. Many talented boys are lost to Rugby forever and narrows the playing base. The best way to stop this is for the ARU to abandon the concept of Australian Schoolboy teams and select junior Australian (and State) teams from the club ranks.

Monday 12/04/2010: The Courier Mail article on the big elite schools and rugby (in particular) scholarships, has lit up talkback radio and the Courier Mail comments column. As with everything, different people see different things, and the Courier Mail comments column reflects exactly that, the differing views that are in the marketplace, and the polarized opinions. However, many are missing the real point that I feel the articles are trying to portray. I will watch the situation unfold over the series for sure.

Monday 12/04/2010: Well, some stupidity travelling with me this morning, and I just deleted what I wrote on Sunday morning, will have to see if I can recover said words again somehow. Some stuff in the Courier Mail this morning about the clandestine nature of those big schools, and scholarships. You can read them at these links. <http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/death-inevitable-in-gps-rugby-arms-race-principal-says/story-e6freon6-1225852420863>

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/rich-gps-coaches-stalk-young-rugby-players/story-e6freon6-1225852440076>

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/opinion/life-isnt-fair-but-the-old-boys-still-need-rugby-mike-colman/story-e6frerf6-1225852422086>

Enough said there really.

Friday 09/04/2010: Heard this on the radio this morning, couldn't be a more true statement made: "Political Correctness is a doctrine, fostered by a delusional, illogical minority, and rabidly promoted by an unscrupulous mainstream media, which holds forth the proposition that it is entirely possible to pick up a turd by the clean end."

Friday 09/04/2010: You all need to have a look at this, this dude rings up every talkback operator going, and last week he was talking about his new video on youtube. Not sure I would be skiting about it, but you need to look, and watch it all, it gets better at the end. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MwN_xNgNL8Y His grandmother would be very happy that he is wearing the shirt she gave him for christmas of 1975.

Wednesday 07/04/2010: I note I have used several spellings of the word bore "a" tahs. Not sure which is right, but hopefully you get the picture. I guess to put a definition to the variously similar spellings, would be something like "Group of Sky Blue clad (supposed) warriors playing in the Super 14 competition out of an almost bankrupt state called New South Wales". It is allegedly the place that Captain Cook first landed and quilled a few lines of ownership or some such rubbish. People that live in NSW, particularly Sydney, rate themselves as slightly above the rest of we mortal Australians, not sure why, but they do, and it is aptly covered in one of the Redgum songs of the early 80's, about the bankcard.

Wednesday 07/04/2010: I was in contact with the Body Parts Dealer the other day, he was off to harvest some kidneys, and I am still awaiting my "end" from that deal. I also hear from various channels that the Silver Fox is showing some friskiness now that the Tallow Wrestling season is approaching. No doubt he is manicuring those billowing waves of magnificent grey hair that we all know he has. At least he has hair I guess!!! The Night Hawke has been very quiet, he likes to lay very low, consummate operator but likes to wrestle in the dark. I will telephone the Body Parts Dealer later, I understand he is off to an idyllic retreat on the Sunshine Coast for a few days to ply his wicked trade, no doubt with trucks loaded with ice. Look out for them, and avoid them.

Wednesday 07/04/2010: While on the Rebels, I hope they have all the oxygen gear and wheelchairs close by. I really think Mortlock is a poor signing. He is way past his best today, and what we can hope for from him in 3 years at 36 or 37 is less rugby than he is playing now, which is very little, and he will be more fragile than he is now, which is extremely fragile. It's a long way to ship bananas. I don't remember too many guys still playing great test rugby at 37, with the one that comes immediately to mind being Frank Bunce. I was surprised he retired at 37, he just seemed to keep getting better and better and remains in my mind still today one of the great players of any era I have watched. Mortlock and the other band of geriatrics are not in his class. The other guy that is in a similar geriatric class is Sam Cordingley, not sure what he will offer to a professional franchise either. However, we can say that McQueen does not have a bad record and has seemed to know what he was doing over years gone past, as as Waldron, the CEO when you speak about building clubs from ground zero.

Wednesday 07/04/2010: The worst kept secret in rugby was announced yesterday, Adam Freier's signing by the Melbourne Franchise. I think it is the right decision for Freier, his NSW career is done it seems. He also seems like a pretty fair sort of fellow. Spent some time in a lift with him in Perth a couple of years back, and he was quick to engage in conversation and seemed genuinely interested

in having a chat. By the time our lift ride was over, he had offered me tickets to the Force vs NSW match up later that week in Perth, in 2008. He will be a good signing for the Rebels.

Wednesday 07/04/2010: Yesterday also saw Darren Lockyer announce that he is available for Representative duties in 2010. Drawing plenty of commentary I can tell you, most of it negative. I wouldn't write him off just yet, the origin stage is one that draw the best out of the greats and only time will tell as to how Lockyer goes, whether this is the right decision or not.

Wednesday 07/04/2010: Yesterday saw Pricey (Steve Price) announce his end of year retirement. This guy is one good man, not a hint of any dark clouds around Pricey, he is everything we should be aspiring to. Of course he is a Toowoomba boy, went to Harristown High School and played his junior Footy at the Newtown club from memory. He has been an exceptional rugby league player for many years.

Wednesday 07/04/2010: Sighted my first homo tape in rugby league on the weekend just gone, and would you believe I have forgotten who I saw it on and which team, however it is there. May have been the Raiders. League certainly countered with that great game on the weekend between the Tigers and the Raiders, it was a ripper. I know alot of people are caught up in some homo phobic "don't watch this sport" of "only follow this sport" but you need to include 5 serves of vegetables in your diet, so why not some sporting variety as well. Rugby League is certainly one very tough sport, played by some incredible athletes, but they are suffering from too many teams and not enough players as well, have a bit of a look at the Broncos at the moment, these guys could well finish last in 2010. They are pretty ordinary.

Wednesday 07/04/2010: Forgot to transfer the below on the weekend, so here it is now. I know you are all sweating on my account of the Bore"a" tahs.

Sunday 04/04/2010: Fresh from the Reds vs Sharks game and it moves into number one game for the weekend. South African commentators are without doubt the least knowledgeable of all commentators. Will someone please tell them we have not had any Law Changes, that now refs are just calling them as they are written. Also probably the most biassed, happy to talk about the Reds scoring off a forward pass, but not one of them mentioned the knock on by the Sharks at the base of a ruck that two phases later lead to a try, and the blatant off side on fulltime, right in front that surely would have been three points to win the game, with a bonus point. However, it was a great game of footy, with two committed sides, playing a ball in hand game, with a few mistakes, for that they should be congratulated, some of the stuff the Bore "a" tahs dish up has more kicking in it than a soccer match. Cooper, still not a fan, but warming to him, was outstanding, as was loane. If the selectors are serious, the Wallabies backline will be pretty much Qld, with Horne at 13, outside Genia, Cooper and Faainga, with loane and McCabe on the wings, and Hynes at Fullback. Morahan is on the bench, as is Giteau, and Barnes does not make the cut. While I am a supporter of a ball player at 10 and 12, you will play much better footy with the Faainga go forward match and no nonsense defence than waiting for Giteau to break the line with something special. Something special, that is "The WOW FACTOR" happens at training in the warm up touch match, and very rarely in a match. Faainga goes forward almost every touch, and has been belting people in defence. Qld's defence has been and continues to be outstanding.

Sunday 04/04/2010: Very hard to believe that the Bor"e"atahs sit at the top of the Super 14 table. Very hard to believe that Al Baxter has played 100 games, and very hard to believe that Al Baxter scored a try, his first, in his 100th game. Whatever the Fox commentators say, the Waratahs are close to the most boring side I have ever seen play, raining or dry. One thing I did agree with Greg "Marto" Martin on though was him saying, during the Steve Lzynski ref cross to determine a Cheetah's try, that you cannot have a double movement in rugby. I really thought Lzynski was trying to say "double movement" but just couldn't get the words out, as he tried to answer, "the ball was grounded before the line and then promoted". Of course the Law states something like "The tackled player can play the ball in any direction, (also something in there about playing the ball immediately) and in playing the ball can reach out and score a try." Something like that. What we saw last night was a Cheetahs side playing classic "no idea rugby", playing against a Bor"e"atahs side that were playing "just a little bit more, but not much more idea rugby than the Cheetahs". Game of the weekend, and I am awaiting the Reds replay, definitely that beauty between the Blues and the Bulls, had plenty, physicality, some massive hits in there, with Kaino's shot on Flip someone or other, an absolute ball tearer. The paying public should demand more rugby of this ilk, and less of the trash that the Bor"e"atahs and many others dish up. To coin a phrase from Gorden Tallis, during half time of the Souths vs Cronulla clash, and attributing it to the Bor"e"atahs vs Cheetahs clash, "this game would put a glass eye to sleep." Thanks for that Gorden, there is alot of good material flows out of your mouth, that's for sure. Berrick Barnes finally showed us that his catching skills have been semi restored and that he can do that little drop/stab kick off the side of the boot. Doesn't get him recalled from the Fast Eddie XV though. Halangahu showed just how poor the Cheetahs defence is/was, with a linebreak and long carry. Fair dinkum punters, this bloke can tackle, but offers an absolute zero in attack, and for him to break the line indicates that the Cheetahs had "no idea" what to do and where to be. There also seems to be a decline in the use of homo tape, although main offenders in it's use, the Brumbies are on a bye and I am yet to sight the Sharks yet this weekend. There is no homo tape seen in rugby league at this particular point in time.

Saturday 03/04/2010: Jonathan Kaplan showed us last night, or yesterday afternoon why he and his team of assistants, will referee the Fast Eddie XV, they were an absolute disgrace. There are many times when I say stuff like, you just have to deal with the referee, figure out how he is refereeing and play to that, you need to play well enough to be on top of referee error and interpretation, but yesterday the Hurricanes were robbed, absolutely robbed by three woeful decisions. The Crusaders first try, contained a blatant forward pass, and maybe a dodgy tackle call. Then there was the try from the fast lineout throw. The ball used for the quick lineout throw had already been picked up by someone else (Conrad Smith) and I also thought there were enough people milling around the mark for a lineout to have been called formed. And the last try, how anyone could see that ball going down is beyond me. As one of the 15man team said, we are in as good a position as he is here in Australia, and we can't see the ball being forced. I am not anti Crusaders, but they did not really deserve to win that. Kaplan in their with three try assists and alot of other dodgy calls. Disgraceful performance. Imagine my delight then when seeing Stu Dickinson heading up the borefest between the Force and The Stormers, caught a bit of shuteye in that one I can tell you. However, we did find our outside centre for our Fast Eddie XV, in that big Fijian on the wing for the Stormers, with Blair Connor from the Reds getting a bench spot for those outside back slots. Only got a few forwards to

select now and I am sure they will come to us as the weekend unfolds.

Friday 02/04/2010: And, just reading the article on Keebra Park winning the sevens, one comment from their coach is a cracker, and just so right, but if I were him I would add a little over rider. The article is in the Brisbane Times Newspaper. The comment from the coach goes like this: "They (rugby union) don't seem to identify kids, that's where I'd be looking. It's crazy stuff". I would be adding the following, "They don't seem to identify kids outside the sanctity of those very cushy elite, supposed "rugby nurseries", except for a few token identifications for the purpose of seemingly "spreading the net". Let me give you an example. I watched two days of the big rugby League Schoolboy tournament when it was held in Dalby, 2007 I think, Andrew McCullough of the Broncos was finishing school at State High at the time. This was the Queensland Schoolboys Rugby League State Titles. I sat at the Northern end of the ground. Present at that northern end of the ground was a virtual who's who of the rugby league world. Most noticeable was Arthur Beetson, Easts scout, dressed up for the day, Jackie Howe singlet, some stubbies, and a nice pair of dress thongs. The legendary, and he is a legend, Cyril Connell and Paul Bunn, Broncos recruitment guys were there, Rod Reddy from Parramatta and some others from other NRL outfits that who's names I cannot remember. The times I walked around the ground, which was a few, I saw exactly zero people from rugby at this show, that's correct zero. Listening to Cyril Connel and the boys talk, and from memory, 8 or 9 of the Keebra Park side that year were already contracted, along with Andrew McCullough as just another that we know. Rugby sure does have to learn that this is a brand new, well slightly second hand, professional world, and the tiny little window of "elite" schools is not going to deliver the depth required to deliver consistently competitive franchises, and definitely not going to deliver the best athletes or players to the game.

Friday 02/04/2010: Here we are on a Good Friday, and working as normal. Heard yesterday that Keebra Park destroyed Ipswich Grammar in the semi finals of the Aussie Schools sevens tournament, as they made their way to winning the final. I reckon some of these "Elite" as they like to be known schools should run in some of the higher level rugby league competitions that are available, just to see how they would go. Not sure they would get into the Arrive Alive Cup though. Some good footy this weekend, starting up with The Melbourne Storm playing the Dragons, should be a pretty good one to get the weekend moving. Think it kicks off around 2pm in Real Time. The Reds face their stiffest challenge to date, an improving Sharks side in South Africa. The way they are playing though, gives me no reason to suspect they won't, at the very least, be highly competitive, and in reality, could and should win.

Thursday 01/04/2010: Heard yesterday that rugby league powerhouse Keebra Park won the Australian Schools Sevens tournament, graduating to this tournament after winning the one in Qld. The Brisbane Times carried an article about a month after the event, calling Ipswich a "rugby powerhouse", which is hardly the case, and has hardly been the case for a lot of years, probably back to the days of Lagi Setu, maybe further. Even so they did knock off and State High on their way to winning the Qld title, and I was in the stadium to see them play Ipswich Grammar in that final. They looked bigger, faster, more self assured and much tougher than what you usually see running around on any rugby paddock, as is the case when you see any of these top level junior or school rugby league tournaments, the physical development and sheer size of these men still at school is

rather daunting.

Wednesday 31/03/2010: The Fast Eddie XV is the new and permanent name of the team.

Wednesday 31/03/2010: An emailer this morning has named the worst ever XV, coming up with the very appropriate title, the Eddie Jones XV. The writer goes on to say that Eddie, in his opinion, is the worst coach of the modern generation, but that he still continues to weigh heavily into every aspect of Australian rugby, something, according to the writer, something that he had a huge hand in destroying.

Wednesday 31/03/2010: An email yesterday actually giving a name to the 15man "worst ever" XV. Thought the reader was a bit harsh in christening it the "Dead XV", a name with plenty of finality and doom and gloom about it. We will have to give that some thought at 15man house, maybe put it to the vote, see what we come up with. We still have a few players to come up with yet, and this weekend will see us concentrating very hard on finding an outside centre, and filling up those back 5 spots in the scrum. Look out for it, these blokes won't win a game anywhere.

Wednesday 31/03/2010: Listening to talk back radio yesterday afternoon on the way home, Talkin Sport of course, there really are some loose and rabid people out there. The next coaches are out there in spectator land folks, one guy rang in yesterday and did not rate Wayne Bennett as a coach. Gee, not sure what sort of record you have to put beside your name to say you can do something. Another guy, he gets that nervous on the day that "his" (read the team that he supports) team plays that he can't eat and gets very nervous. I am stunned by this level of self imposed commitment that won't alter the result a fig. I am thinking that this is just the sort of person that spends enormous amounts of hard earned on club merchandise year in and year out. People wonder why clubs change jersey designs, that answer is simple, there looks always to be plenty of people out there that "have to have" the latest and greatest club merchandise, or their world will stop turning. Sad. Another guy rang in and said he had taken the whole day at work trying to figure out who would be the NSW State of Origin Captain. Like this is a life changing experience as well. Today he is going to ring back and name his side, another work day lost.

Tuesday 30/03/2010: And to follow on from below, while rugby continues to hold on to tradition, and rely upon a handful of schools to produce the "depth" that is needed, the same issue will continue to exist, and get worse with so much competition for every athlete today. Rugby League has a tremendously broad club base, and still is having issues filling up 16 franchises. Soccer and AFL combine to be big threats, lots and lots of money behind them, international (as rugby is) and national in the case of AFL, but with pretty clear expansion plans, and very broad bases in their heartlands.

Tuesday 30/03/2010: Rugby has it's games that are played in a fashion that lead one to believe that the players, coaches, administrators have no idea, we call it "no idea" rugby. Well last night we saw rugby league's version of it when the South Sydney Rabbits came up against the Cronulla Sharks in a match of no idea rugby league. I just couldn't get through it, but it did help me sleep, and as a confirmed insomniac I need that help most nights, but it wasn't a great spectacle. And the problem, the same as the rugby problem, just not enough players to fill up all the franchises, bringing about two very clear levels of competition within the competition.

Tuesday 30/03/2010: Lots of emails from readers on the "15man Worst XV" with suggestions of who should be in it. Judging by the number of emails slating Sam Wykes, he has to get a gig on popularity alone. I admit I was struggling with locks and loosies. While on popularity, just to extend our suggestion on crowd involvement, we thought that each seat should be fitted with a yes/no and perhaps a trend button, the crowd could vote on tries and all sorts of things, and they could make one of those really stupid worms on some subjects, like referee Suttor's very impressive beard, for an official, and other important game related material like that.

Tuesday 30/03/2010: Forgot to mention the fantastic facial hair that was abounding during the weekend of Super 14. Special mention to Hargreaves from the Sharks, Scott Paterson from the Hurricanes, Alby Matthewson from the Blues, Ma'afu from the Blues and big Tony Woodcock also from the Blues. A team mention though to the Blues, who we figured, had 100% of members with facial hair. The reserve hooker was doubtful, but we thought we noted a manicured line of blonde hair on his top lip, so we counted him in for the 100% effort from the Blues.

Tuesday 30/03/2010: All I needed this morning was to turn on the big screen computer at home, log on to the Courier Mail website, and there was Allan Langer, in nothing but his underpants, dancing on a table at the Normanby Hotel. I thought the dress standards at the Normanby were a little better than that, I bet I couldn't be in that place dressed in such a manner. One could almost think the average public is discriminated against. In any case Alfie has got himself into a bit of hot water and we will watch as that goes on. The Broncos look to be in some serious trouble for season 2010 and could finish right down the bottom end of the log.

Monday 29/03/2010: How big is Joe Tomane? An off season diet of real good banana sandwiches looks to have been the go for young Joe, he has become quite massive. It was noted on Saturday night by the 15man staffers that the 2007 Aussie Schoolboys backline were pretty much all contracted to or playing at the highest level of the games: 9: Brent Hamlin, back here in Qld now, think he has got himself an academy spot, 10: Matt To'omua contracted to the Brumbies as a 16 year old, just ahead of Cyril Connell walking up the path looking to contract him to the Broncos. Has a few Super 14 appearances under the belt. 11. Joe Tomane, Melbourne Storm for two years and now Gold Coast Titans, plenty of NRL experience at the top level. 12: Ben Tapuai, with the Reds setup, not sure at what level but has at least one Super rugby appearance under his belt. 13: Rob Horne, straight into the Waratahs set up from school, has plenty of Super rugby under his belt, and probably the pick of those backs in that 2007 side, contractual dollars won't say that, but my opinion does. 14. Luke Morahan, going OK with some reds games and a Wallaby tour under the belt. Can't remember but think he came off the bench for the Schools side, the preferred winger being Afusipa Taumopeau, who is or was contracted to the Brumbies, but a little out of favour. Has played some Super rugby. 22: James O'Connor I think was in 22 in that side, but certainly off the bench in the game I watched in Sydney against the New Zealand side (Captain of the New Zealand side was Robbie Robinson, now the 10 for the Highlanders, I think he is out of position, but I don't operate at that level, but given Aaron Cruden's skill and ability, Robbie will only ever be a backup 10). Also in the Aussie A side or forcing his way on to the bench, was one Willie Tupou, who had a couple of years at the Broncos, had a shoulder reconstruction last year and is now close to NRL duties with the Cowboys.

Monday 29/03/2010: Looks like the vultures and the sharks are circling Chris Hickey of the Waratahs. After reading all of yesterday's press about how there was no way that Hickey was going to be iced, how the president or CEO or someone personally guaranteed his job, we see today that the Waratahs are looking at Jake White, as some sort of "Director of Rugby". Where there is smoke there is fire and if I was Mr Hickey, I would be worried, very worried. His win percentage is something like 66%, as against McKenzie just before he got iced from the Waratahs at 69%. One can easily forget they are winning, so boring a style of dislocated rugby do they play. Not sure why they can't play with a little dazzle, they are the rock star franchise of the Aussie Super 14 outfits. And if it proves to be true that we are chasing Jake White, and my didn't he head up an exciting South African outfit, for NSW or the Western force, alot of people should be asking the question, what the hell is wrong with the Development programme for Australian coaches. I have a couple of ideas and opinions on this, and may or may not expand my thoughts as time rolls away, keep looking out for it.

Monday 29/03/2010: The Super 14 circus rolls on and thankfully is almost half done, when we take into account finals and byes and the like. I say thankfully because in essence, I am trying to be entertained in 2010, and the entertainment from rugby is not really happening. Blues vs Brumbies was OK, some of the Waratahs vs Blues was OK, some of it farcical, with the Reds, yes the Reds being one bright spot on the horizon, not playing overtly outrageous rugby, but just holding on to the pill and carting it forward. They have started their African tour very well, that's not a bad win over there after just getting off the plane. The tripping incident, well what can you say, stupidity, idiocy, alot of words come to mind, many of them describe the brain explosion quite adequately. It was the weekend of the commentator, with more gaffs made by them than you could hope to imagine in a season, on one afternoon, and it continued in the league on Sunday afternoon. Enjoyed a couple of the hits in the Waratahs game, the shot on Rob Horne by we think Benson Stanley was an absolute cracker, would have made the grade in any rugby league match up, really bent him and ripped his head back. Rob Horne will be one of the great 13's the world has seen, in the class of an O'Driscoll, he has great feet, makes great reads in defence and can tackle, and pass and catch. However, amongst the fleeting bits of decent rugby, there is plenty of rubbish, and I know, we don't have to watch it, but after a really big week at work, and plenty more coming, I committed myself to the couch on Friday night and Saturday, took on more calories than I should have, and watched plenty of footy. Now back to between the good bits, the 15man team decided to select, or start selecting the worst XV in the competition., Fullback, easy, Earl Rose, from the Lions, in defence he doesn't even rate as semi opposed, he is dreadful. On the wings, Dane Haylett Petty and Stefan Terblanche, Terblanche wasn't too bad this week just gone but has dished up enough rubbish in the weeks prior to nail down a spot. We have not yet selected a 13, but 12, is high priced Waratahs recruit Berrick Barnes, at 10 is Andy Goode, at 9 is Luke Burgess, and we think he may well be the reason the Waratahs backline just never gets going, his darts across field must have defensive lines feeling very good. Shepherdson, Henderson and anyone that has worn the 2 or 16 jumper for the Force round out the front row, with a few more positions left to fill in the forward pack.

Thursday 25/03/2010: This Adjudicator bloke from the Foxsports website, seems to be reading my stuff. I thought I had a patent on the Gotham City Crime Fighting operation, but apparently not, it seems he is there as well wearing his cape. His tipping is certainly on the same very poor level as mine. Are we one and the same?

Thursday 25/03/2010: Plenty of people with an opinion on Lote Tuqiri's return to the ranks of rugby league. One recurring theme is that he touches the ball more in league than he did in rugby. So far, I would beg to differ, we at 15manrugby ran a quick, unofficial stat on him last week, and we figure he had 9 to 12 touches, we weren't being too accurate, 3 of those were times that he acted dummy half, and ran across field, again that may be what they want, to attack closer to centrefield. WE ran heaps of this sort of stat on Lote and Wendell in rugby games, and 12 carries would have been a poor game for them on a carry front, not an involvements front. So that theory is easy to lambast. The other beauty that I love at the moment is that Tuqiri came back from rugby alot fitter than any other back would have as he enjoyed getting in the rucks and mauls, yep, right, just head out boys and read something about primary support in the modern game, yep we do expect backs to be able to complete the skill set at the breakdown, also if you want to have a look at something, see if you can dig something up about work off the ball, the requirements of rugby when not personally in possession. The work off the ball may go some way to explaining why Tuqiri, and many other rugby players are indeed quite fit.

Thursday 25/03/2010: All the important things in rugby and life, coming up very shortly. OK, that section of important stuff in life is [now up here](#), and do read it all, athlete's tape, hairstyles and cat desexing are all covered in an in depth look at life. Please do read it all, all the way to the cat castration/elimination section at the bottom.

Wednesday 24/03/2010: In my next life, I so dearly want to come back as a round of 50 calibre ammunition, and return something that deserves it into DNA on the grass from about 200 metres.

Tuesday 23/03/2010: On a lighter note, and it will be written soon, the 15man rugby team, growing very bored and fidgety on Saturday night watching the woeful Waratahs, has come up with a new sanctioning system for rugby, to replace yellow and red cards. I will write about it soon, but it involves better use of homo tape (homo tape so described by Phil Kearns and Greg Martin recently, and is that colourful tape worn around patellas, up the back of hamstrings and so on) to limit the ranges of player movements. We also would like to contribute to the fund to allow Stefan Terblanche to go back to his retirement home, he is terrible, and makes so many errors, we find him quite laughable, as with some of the other mashed banana eaters, a couple at the Western Force, let you guess who.

Tuesday 23/03/2010: A very intriguing weekend of sport just behind us readers, and alot that bears commenting on. I think I saw the best game of footy I have seen in several years, any code, in the Brumbies vs the Blues, and plenty that line up at the bottom, Waratahs vs Force, Titans vs Souths, abysmal displays of the showpieces that are expected. The weekend dished up some woeful match ups on Saturday, Lions vs Crusaders, Highlanders and Sharks, Force and Waratahs, all these games destined to be viewer disasters. Of course thrown in there somewhere was the paradise of excitement, The A League extravaganza, won as I understand it in an all exciting penalty shoot out. I did flick on to the soccer for maybe 20 seconds, and saw some prima donna lie down hurt because someone had brushed against him, but this game draws crowds, massive ones, and players, mothers love their sons to play this game. Go figure. A bit much to say in this little bit, so I will put it in another page, [which you can find here](#).

Friday 19/03/2010: Another story related to me during the week with the initial source being a guy that

two years ago told my source he knew nothing about rugby, in fact hated the game. In my opinion, today, nothing has changed. His story on this particular occasion, that the side (a 1st XV side) he has got himself involved with, not sure how, is working very hard on the inside ball, with the runner, running a hook or crossover line and coming back under, and believe it or not, running into a hole. Questions I immediately ask, and of course this guy would never talk to me, I am not in his class of operator or person, what happens if there is no hole (space there), of course I am sure he could come up with some theory on paper as to why it will be. However, the great thing about this game is that it is played on grass, and what looks good and right on paper is not necessarily reflected on the grass. As Robbie Deans says, as an attack, the defence offers us the opportunities. Lots of interesting stuff already starting to reach the 15man ears on a schoolboy front, with a while to go yet before the kick off.

Friday 19/03/2010: An associate of mine who also attended the "Advanced Coaching Seminar" last weekend told me during the week that he was speaking with a first XV coach (It is always implied that those who coach at first XV level can coach (please pick up the sarcasm there)) also in attendance (narrows it down a bit doesn't it) who told him that with the new laws (this really irks me, laws are now being actually interpreted as they are written, nothing new, just the CORRECT ruling on the laws at the tackle) took scavenging sevens (openside flankers) out of the game. You know, there are many days that I wish I could have similar closed minded views on things, but I just can't. This guy has obviously not been watching McCaw and Smith, and no doubt Brussouw, who for mine have got the whole mental sequence correct for this correct law interpretation, and just do it at pace, simple stuff. In any case, is the seven always the threat at the ball. I think not, in sides that I have coached, and I appreciate that I can't coach, I always had 7, 10, 6, 8, 9 and 12 all white hot at the jackal. I guess the school in question may not go so well again in 2010.

Thursday 18/03/2010: Oh, and I expect you all to go and have a look, and it will take some time, at the collection I just put together on Flickr of the three games I was at Kawana Waters, games of Under 20 touch footy at the National Touch League carnival. Gee it was wet, the night game I took a few photos of, well the photos are ordinary, but you are expected to view them and give me some hits. You can find the collection here: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/32053650@N03/collections/> or you can look at them as three slideshows here: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/32053650@N03/sets/72157623627746142/show/> here: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/32053650@N03/sets/72157623627740422/show/> and here for the very ordinary night shots <http://www.flickr.com/photos/32053650@N03/sets/72157623506529179/show/>. 15man has spoken and requested, and that should be thought of just like your average mafia don asking and requesting, sure some of the photos are ordinary, but if you don't look at them all you might miss the good ones.

Thursday 18/03/2010: While I am as happy as anyone to see the Reds playing some better footy, and actually being competitive, and a little bit abrasive at times, I do have to comment on one particular comical incident in the Reds vs Force match. Comical to some I guess, deadly serious for me. The incident to which I refer, Cooper running down the Hale Street touchline, O'Connor the only defender left and heading across in cover. Cooper seemingly slows down, and dances, hops, jumps, skips and just drops the ball cold over the sideline, without even being touched. Until yesterday I wasn't sure what he was doing, when it dawned on me, the ballet dance steps he was practising required

nothing to be carried in case overall balance was upset, so he has released the footy to perform the manoeuvre, that's my call on it anyway. I have another one, but it could land me in jail if I go public with it. In stark comparison was Tuqiri's run down the left touchline on Monday night for the Tigers against Manly. At Full pace and watching Manly's Brett Stewart coming at him, expecting Stewart to slow and was then going to step inside. Stewart however has kept coming and smacked the big man quite hard, seemingly hurting himself pretty badly in the process, badly enough to miss 5 months of footy. Cooper needs to have a look at that footage if he hasn't already.

Thursday 18/03/2010: How good was yesterday. The principle of 15man (myself) arrives home, son number 2 was home early from a Uni day and had the Wrestling on, and Guest General Manager for RAW yesterday, one of my favourite all timers, the very Southern, Stone Cold Steve "The Rattlesnake" Austin. He is up there with The Undertaker and Triple H in my land of wrestling folklore. And don't they have fantastic names, Rattlesnake, Undertaker, sensational stuff. Only 12 or so days now to go to Wrestlemania, where of course, unless you have been on Jupiter for the last 25 years, we all know The Undertaker has a stunning record of 17 and 0. I think this year he comes up against Sean Michaels, The Heartbreak Kid. Go the big man from Death Valley.

Tuesday 16/03/2010: The first round of the NRL has passed on now, and even the staunchest disliker of rugby league would have to admit there were some stunning games in round one, culminating last night with the Tigers and Manly. These blokes are aiming up in a big way, some massive hits, and great pace. I will shy away from the Tuqiri saga, suffice to say I never really rated the guy as a rugby player, thought he was always very much the individual, and never did any of the instinctive rugby things well at all, kicked too much (in rugby) for a guy that is over 100 kilos and fast, and just took the wrong option on far too many occasions. Glad he has gone to a game that suits him, but the reality is he is a whore to the dollar, and good luck to him, we all have to survive. I think rugby really needs to legalise the shoulder charge. I watch alot of sport and talk to alot of people, and find it easy to shift from a rugby league to a rugby union mindset (people need to learn how to do this, the games are different and you cannot have the same expectations of how you are entertained at each code), and if you talk to died in the wool league fans and watchers, they are basically looking for pace of the game, big hits, and ball movement, they don't really want alot more. Personally I like both games but happen to enjoy the mental and tactical challenge that is rugby, but gee a bad game of rugby is absolutely woeful, have a look at the Waratahs vs the Sharks, very, very ordinary stuff.

Monday 15/03/2010: AS part of any of those things there is always kids from the NTS or whatever they call it these days, they love their catchy little names some of these blokes, but one of the young guys there is about to start year two of three I think in the State High First XV, one Curtis Browning, who looks the goods already. I have to admit disappointment though, I have been saying for a while that Curtis would look very good with some ink, and some ear rings, but none of the above have materialized, so maybe in 2010, who knows. Now before all the do gooders call me up and tell me to leave the boy alone, we had a joke about it yesterday, that would be Curtis and I during an exclusive interview, and it is just that, a bit of fun, so save your phone call, and save your email, body parts traders and tallow wrestlers excepted. Unfortunately though yesterday, the actual and true identity of a great masked wrestler was revealed to Curtis, the true identity of the Silver Fox is now out there on the streets amongst us all. Not sure that the young quite understand the intricacies of a completely warped

sense of humour yet, probably best they don't.

Monday 15/03/2010: I learnt yesterday at the "Advanced Coaching Seminar" why some of us can't coach, apparently it has something to do with being over 40, being overweight, and something else I can't remember. Spent some time at the seminar yesterday with a body parts dealer and his accomplice, a refrigeration man, how good is that, gives you the whole package, all you need is a bath full of ice to perform the operation in and there is the whole body parts trade, removal, storage and sales. I was assured that this was not the case, but I am looking for my cut, big money in that trade.

Monday 15/03/2010: Attended an "Advanced Coaching Seminar" yesterday, run by the QRU at Ballymore, at which Robbie Deans, Jim Williams, Patricio Noriega and Craig McRae (Brisbane Lions kicking coach) presented sessions on Decision Making (Deans), Lineouts (Williams), Scrums (Noriega) and kicking obviously, (McRae). Now the session of the day was presented by Pato Noriega, because he likes to destroy people, can't really use the language he used here, but I liked what he said, right down to the bit about tag length, he was talking for scrummaging, I immediately had visions of other uses for long, flesh ripping tags. The big man is still big, and at 38 still looks like he is ready to pack down at test level.

Monday 15/03/2010: A refereeing story, and a cracker. I have a number of referees that sit in what I call the worst ever basket, and they are disgraceful, but this story yesterday puts this guy in the basket, easily. A guy I know took his Toowoomba team to Brisbane for a trial match, and we are talking big boys here, Toowoomba/Darling Downs First grade. The Toowoomba fullback has fielded a kick and run the ball back at the opposition. He has been subsequently tackled and lifted past the horizontal and put down in an illegal tackle. The referee, has penalized the ball carrier for (I can only think, allowing himself to be lifted past the horizontal) being lifted past the horizontal, and then yellow carded him when he questioned the decision. Mr Referee, I have no idea who you are, but hang your sorry head in shame, you now join the 15man annals of outstanding incompetence, matched by few.

Monday 15/03/2010: The Reds win again, but we expected that. The decision to sign no specialist hooker is going to haunt the Force for the rest of season 2010. Their lineout was woeful and gifted Qld easy possession on many occasions. Anthony Faainga is demanding Wallaby selection somewhere now with another outstanding display at 12, savage in defence and carts the footy forward very well. The Reds defence is superb at the moment, their linespeed outstanding. The afternoon again reinforced why I should never watch rugby live, even from the sanctity of where we were. Too many experts that are way off the mark make for amusing, perhaps infuriating viewing. Yesterday we heard that Tai Mclsaac was the Force Hooker, that Giteau had just signed a 5 year 5 million dollar contract with the Force and the ARU and that James O'Connor was going to play for Nudgee and the Force in season 2010. Outstanding stuff indeed.

Sunday 14/03/2010: Halfway through another weekend and the NSW Waratahs did little to tell me they were making improvements. It is not hard to look good in a semi opposed training session. On the face of it, they scrummed well, and they defended well, but the Lions were little better than atrocious, if in fact they were better than atrocious, maybe they were worse. Tom Carter should hang his head in shame, lying at the back of the Lions ruck, getting one small gentle rake from a boot with plastic tags, no force and no malice in the stroke, and he gets up and complains to the referee. Rugby was built

around standing on people, it's a sad day when someone complains about it. The Waratahs were also gifted at least 3 tries from disgraceful refereeing and officiating blunders, so a score in the 50's probably more appropriate. The Brumbies showed they are on the improve against a slightly better opposition than the Lions, they now look like they will be somewhat of a threat. Cream always rises to the top and I thought George Smith was outstanding in this match. I note this morning that the Bulls have notched another half century against the Highlanders, and the Stormers continue to win and win well. If they continue to run at the front of the table, and finals are held in South Africa, it will be a Herculean task to beat either of them over there at the end of the season.

Friday 12/03/2010: Darling Downs Rugby Union has further blotted it's copy book in an unprofessional cancelling of a representative fixture at Gold Park last Saturday night. I attended the oval on Sunday morning and it was in magnificent condition, easily could have supported the two games on the previous night, especially given that the Cairns side was already here. I personally attended the National Touch Titles at Kawana Waters yesterday, and those guys were playing in truckloads of water and rain, across 14 or 16 fields, from 8am until 10pm, and I would warrant there is much more traffic across a touch game due to the nature of the game than there is a rugby game. Fair Dinkum people, they could have played that touch tournament in an olympic swimming pool yesterday and the players would have stayed drier. The grass at Gold Park is thick and well rooted, there was no danger to anyone. Poor decision indeed and plenty of people totally fed up with the organization. Pics here of what I saw at Kawana Waters yesterday: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/32053650@N03/4426110376/>
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/32053650@N03/4426110376/>

Friday 12/03/2010: A long time since I have put finger to key, and the week coming won't be any better. It has been a big week, with Qld ticking some more boxes, still a few to go, but they could have, and would have last year, got smashed by this side, but they hung in there and came back, and then hung on again. They are the pick of the Aussie sides by a country mile, a country mile apparently being further than other types of miles, [anyway, more on last week here.](#)

Wednesday 03/03/2010: Watched the replay of the World Club Rugby League Challenge yesterday afternoon. Sides were allowed to hold the tackled player down for a very long time, not sure what the agenda was there, if there was one, or if the ref was just out of his depth. We at 15manrugby headquarters were certainly wondering though if many British people actually play rugby league, most seemed to be Kiwis and Aussies in the premiership winning Leeds side. The commentators in England are also just so annoying, with Steveo, the expert commentator heading the list, get a little complex and they get alot lost, I am never sure how they would ever watch a game of rugby. They were complaining yesterday about how the refereeing style would upset the fans. Who cares, I thought fans turned up, paid money, watched the footy and went home, and generally don't really understand the game much anyway. Certainly the ones we sit around at Suncorp usually seem to be reading the Martian Laws of the game more so than the IRB set.

Tuesday 02/03/2010: The Reds, what can you say, tried to play some dry weather footy in the rain, and lost. It's easy to blame Cooper for missing those two shots at penalty, very easy, but probably unfair, as much as I am not a fan of his style of play. I think have a look at some positively woeful defence off one lineout where Matthewson has scooted around the back and run 20 or 30 to score, and

one time in particular where Cooper has tried to run it out of our own 22, skipped, jumped (read wasted some time), been tackled and turned over, when all he had to do was jam it into the corner, as Genia did a few plays later, and let them play out of their 22. I would also be very interested in our number 8's stats, guy needed to stand up and deliver some metres and some dominant defence in the conditions and I don't believe he did. I will continue my commentary on another page. Gee it's good to be able to do this from my loungeroom, easy to be a good footballer out of there, and we must always remember that as critics, very easy from the comfortable chair. [***A bit of a look at the week that was and the week that is coming.***](#)

Saturday 27/02/2010: I won't be making my living as a tipster anytime soon, with the Brumbies beating the Stormers in Africa, haven't seen the game yet, but it looks like a big afternoon on the couch. Good to see McCaw back last night and Brad Thorne starting. McCaw slipped seamlessly into the Crusaders side with a half hour to go, and he was as seamless with the tackle law interpretations, delivering two wonderful turnovers. And for all the hype and rubbish we hear about Tuqiri, Sailor and Rogers, just have a look at Thorne and how successful he has been in both codes. The difference being, that the three backs all came to rugby for the money, and weren't that good at the rugby, but lined their pockets pretty well, and now two of them choose to bag the code pretty heavily. Thorne just loves to play, and I would imagine either code, he went to the top level in both, and is more successful than any of those three, quiet, humble, and a genuine tough guy, takes the physical stuff, gives the physical stuff and just goes about his work like a professional. At 35, still has so much to offer.

Friday 26/02/2010: Plenty of folks noting a quiet 15man this week, just been a bit tired and a bit busy to be too concerned with it. Thought every day that I should put fingers to keyboard, and as the week wore on, decided that combining last week's observations with this week's thoughts might be best. Even had one cheeky individual suggest that I would have to change my tune on the Reds. He was explained to quite abruptly why he was wrong. Anyway, I am on the writing trail right this minute, while I do some washing, so check back for the link, before this arvo's first game. [***Have a look at my uneducated ravings here:***](#)

Thursday 18/02/2010: Caught a little bit of the Rugby Club on Foxsports this arvo, and, seriously, they have either been told they have to sell this correct breakdown/tackle law combination as delivering more rugby, or there is a Super 14 competition going on somewhere in a mirrored universe that I am not receiving. No problems with the Law, how it is written or the edict on it's policing. The combination of that law with a full arm sanction, is what is leading to and will continue to lead to more penalty shots at goal, and stoppages, and less rugby being played. Given the way games unfold, it will still be viable to give the penalty in your own zone to save a possible 7, and in the case of some kickers coupled with altitude, the own zone is 60metres out. Penalty shots will ensue and dominate the game, as they did in round one of the competition. Doesn't matter what all the captains and the referees say, I saw games dominated by penalties and penalty kicks at goal. This doesn't bother me in the slightest, personally. As an old forward, I always loved a rest as often as possible, but given the edict seems to be, more ball in play through policing the tackler as the law is written, the combination of laws will give less ball in play and more penalty shots at goal. Take away the ability to shoot at goal from this offence and make it a half arm, and then you will see more play, more ball in play, and more running. And as for JP claiming Dickinson had a good game, Jeez, again there must be another

Dickinson out there somewhere, the one I saw was woeful.

Wednesday 17/02/2010: Word just through that Jake Schatz is starting this week for the QR Queensland Reds, at 6, or for the uninitiated, blind side flanker. A few of this group from the 2006 Under 16 starting to step up, O'connor, To'omua, Dane Haylett Petty, and now Schatzy. I am sure there are others, but those few come to mind early. Van Humphries is out, Horwill into the row, Hardman is also out, so Faingiaa starts, and Hanson on to the bench, Shaw and Ezra Taylor out of the 22 and coming in on the bench are Leroy Houston and Rob Simmons. The loss of Van Humphries is massive, and I thought the Reds may get this one, but that may change my tip to the Crusaders.

Tuesday 16/02/2010: The <http://15man.ifp3.com> site will disappear from about Friday onwards, it has served it's purpose and hits have died off there, so won't be needing it any longer.

Tuesday 16/02/2010: Some interesting correspondence coming 15man's way over the alleged "time" incident in the Reds vs Waratahs clash, but even more interesting some of the claptrap in the mainstream media and comments from wannabe spectators. I wonder if alot of people that think they know really have any idea at all about the game. I was actually quite personally disgusted with the crowd carry on every time Berrick stepped up to the plate. Let's remember that when he decided to leave, Queensland had very little in the kitbag with regards, hope, plans, coaching ability and staff, it would be hard to see anybody making a different decision. While they may not admit it now, ask any of the adults that made the trip to Sydney with the Qld Under 15 and Under 17 sides late last year, ask them to compare the professionalism at that time of the Reds outfit and the Waratahs outfit. There was no comparison, Waratahs and then daylight. Of course we all want Qld to get back on track, but as previously mentioned, at that time, there seemed no hope.

Monday 15/02/2010: Saturday night the old QR Queensland Reds put some egg on my face, that's for sure, they played with some resolve, and with some purpose. I disagree however with the media beatup that the "game was lost in the last seconds". Sure the try was scored then, but there were 4 or 5 key events in the last 5 or more minutes that actually lost them the game. Now I am far, far from a Quade Cooper believer, but it would be only the harshest of critics that would put the blame for the whole loss squarely on his shoulders for missing the tackle on Wycliffe Palu on the line, at the death when other significant events actually cost them the game. I can tell you that I have had my photograph taken with Palu, and the size and body shape of the man still lingers loud and long as someone I definitely would not want to mix it with, in short, on the move, he would be very hard to stop. ***My latest views on the game here:***

Saturday 13/02/2010: Just about to board one of the three 50 seat buses about to leave for Suncorp stadium, just rounding rounding up the last of the 15manteam now. See you there, look for us in the fully booked Corporate Suite section.

Saturday 13/02/2010: Last night the Darling Downs teenage Friday night pre season competition kicked off, and there were some good turnouts, particularly at Under 17 level. Some big performances from Junior Reds members, Trae Tane and Alex Rangira in the Under 14's, book those two names as ones to watch in the next few years, and Stewart Bougoure in the Under 15's. Outside the Junior Reds, the Goondiwindi side travelled extremely well with some superb athletes, big, strong guys that are nice and aggressive, certainly will be worth a big look as we move into the representative season.

A couple of other roughies, a big unit out of league ranks in the Bears Under 14 side, and one at loosehead in the Saints Under 14 side. People you all need to get in and support this, this is where the Downs side is represented from, and further from that Queensland Country and QJRU Under 15 and Under 17 sides selected. For the 16's, another pathway into what I term the purest of selections, no criteria on being a schoolboy or being only a club player, just be playing and be seen. I will be writing more on Qld Country and QJRU stuff, I really enjoyed the victory over Brisbane last year, with a very committed group of young men. Whoever gets the job in 2010 at Under 15 level will find the whole intensity thing stepping up several levels, City did not enjoy the loss setting up a fierce encounter in 2010.

Saturday 13/02/2010: Well tonight we have the "big" clash between NSW and Queensland at Suncorp, better known of course as Lang Park. Against my better judgement, I am off to view the game live with the full 15man rugby team. I was amazed to hear Marto (Greg Martin) calling Adam Byrnes tough on the Rugby Club programme the other night, Adam Byrnes is a pretend tough guy, third man in, cheap shot and then looks around to see who has seen it. The NSW pack has some tough guys in it, and they have been absent from the media beatups that go with sport these days. NSW has possibly the best loosehead in the game in Benn Robinson, I understand the NSW side calls him fat cat, we will continue to refer to him as the Hippo, he looks like a hippo and runs like a hippo. Robinson should destroy whoever Qld has thrown into the fray against him. Unfortunately for them, they also have our most capped prop, and probably one of the worst tightheads in the world in Al Baxter. However, from there back they do muscle up. Cannot wait to see Cam Jowitt, Kane Douglas and hopefully later in the season the big African Roodt belt some people. NSW have an issue at 12 defensively and where ever Turner and Mitchell play, but the backline looks OK. Barnes behind an aggressive forward pack moving forward should call the shots pretty well. Qld for mine looks soft, and have big issues defensively in the backline, and in attack. The question will be will Cooper have a brain explosion in the first, third or 20th minute. If I were NSW, Cooper and Turinui would see plenty of those big locks and Palu all night long, NSW will own plenty of space behind those two in my opinion. On the Super 14 to date, and the law interpretations, **[see my thoughts on it here and why the IRB or SANZAR has got the directive wrong.](#)**

Saturday 13/02/2010: Three games of Super 14 footy down and I have seen two of them, the Hurricanes vs Blues clash and Brumbies vs Force clash, and I thought two very pedestrian clashes. **[My thoughts on the tackle law interpretations here:](#)**

Wednesday 10/02/2010: Something I have been saying for a long time, not necessarily about indigenous players, but certainly the net and wider society, and the private school system. <http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/rugby-union/australia-rugby/indigenous-stars-sidestep-rugby-20100209-nplr.html>

Saturday 06/02/2010: Australian Rugby, World Rugby, and sport in general lost a great man yesterday with the announcement of George Smith's retirement. One of the greatest players we have seen, that is for sure, and probably the last remaining link back to Eales, Larkham, Gregan and Co, Smith could do almost anything on the field. A different player to McCaw that is for sure, but he possessed stuff I am yet to see from McCaw, that deft kicking game, some real rugby nous when he slotted into the attacking line, George just had a well rounded game. When the work became physical with this

current batch, Smith was often really the only one in the middle trying to soak up the physicality being delivered, others could certainly be accused of shirking their duty in that area of the game, but not George. Pocock may well become a great forward, and I understand he has the discipline to do so, but at this point in time he is a long way from displaying the all round game of Smith, who from test one was pretty special, and just got better. More importantly, and I don't know George, he is just an all round good bloke, the last one out there signing autographs, respected by team mates, opposition players and fans of all sides. You have to earn that respect, and Smith leaves the game in Australia with the blessing of all concerned. Well done George, you leave the game with your head held high and you will be long remembered.

Saturday 06/02/2010: I note this morning that Qld's long 2 match winning streak has been broken by the Western Force. Not a good way to head into the big match up with the Wallaby loaded Waratahs next Saturday at Suncorp in Brisbane.

Friday 05/02/2010: Maybe I am missing something in this world, please help if you can. Now the NRL All Stars Team was selected by public voting, I believe, excepting for three or four that were automatic selections. How then does a guy like Nate Myles be popular enough to gain enough votes to make the side, after what he has done. Maybe there is something wrong with the public as well. Mellow night at 15manrugbyhouse last night let me tell you, a self directed concert that included many artists getting together that you jsut can't buy, like Jimmy Barnes and Peter Garrett singing "Dreams of Ordinary Men", Barnes, Moss, Walker, Rene Geyer and Broderick Smith with a super version of "Knockin' on Heaven's Door", Barnes and his son David Campbell singing "You will never walk alone", Barnes and Marcia Hines. I am so glad I lived in the era of Youtube and the like, have no idea what comes next on a technology front, but some of these artists just fit together so well, and you cannot purchase this stuff anywhere, so glad it is available. There is plenty of it available, and no doubt I will hit some more up this afternoon. Brian Cadd even got a run last night with Ginger Man, as did Elvis Presley with Ghetto and American Trilogy, some bagpipes. I was brought up on a strict diet of Cold Chisel, The Angels, Midnight Oil and other such great Aussie bands, gee the Angels seemed to come to Toowoomba every other week on Thursday night. The Refectory at the Institute was always packed for these bands, as you can imagine, there was a wonderful authentic smoky haze, people stood up and got active, never really saw any trouble. Cold Chisel and it's raw power probably without a doubt my favourite band, and still enjoy their early stuff as much as anything to this day, even though I am old.

Thursday 04/02/2010: Interesting reported comments from JohnMitchell, Force Coach yesterday on Foxsports that the "Brumbies should win (Super 14)". I suggest he take a little look at the Crusaders playing roster for 2010, and the Bulls only need a home semi and the trophy will stay in Africa. Difficult to see an Australian side winning the gong in 2010, although the Waratahs and Brumbies should be able to look at a top 6 finish.

Wednesday 03/02/2010: Someone told me there was more cricket coming up, gee I hope that is wrong, I am almost out of entertainment grade fadeable cardboard, not sure what I will do if I am last in line for the TV at home. Perhaps I will just go and watch water boiling or something equally stimulating. I agree with Brendan Julian, they should allow ball tampering, but not to his modest standards. Let's get that thing swinging uncontrollably and have guys dodging and ducking for their lives. Pitches with plenty of green and degenerating into a crumbling, cracking messes also would

help, as would not having them so flat, some inconsistency in the level on a "good" length would also add to the batsmen being scared for their lives and make the game a little more interesting. Read an interesting comment yesterday on what vegemite tastes like, apparently a visitor to our shores has described it as tasting like solidified sweat in his/her blog/photostream. Very harsh.

Monday 01/02/2010: The old Reds, on the biggest winning streak of the last 5 years or so, super stuff, but still with zero competition points. Will be interesting to see if the streak continues through the Feb/Mar period!

Wednesday 27/01/2010: An interesting article, with some fabulous comments:
<http://www.news.com.au/couriermail/comments/0,23836,26634699-5013016,00.html>

Monday 25/01/2010: Saw something very strange yesterday. Watching the Ospreys play Leicester on ESPN, and Leigh Burn went down injured, seemingly a foot injury. He removed his boot and he had some blood on his sock around the toe number two region, and, was allowed a blood bin replacement. Seems a very liberal application of the law. Young Jerry Collins still playing some good footy, as is Marty Holah, in fact Holah was outstanding. There are some fantastic players running around in the Northern Hemisphere competitions that may have an interest in the Melbourne Franchise. I would also like to see a stat on Tuqiri's career, on how many times he has turned the ball over, per match or per half, he keeps doing stupid things on a rugby field, while being paid big piles of cash.

Sunday 24/01/2010: Israel Folau playing rugby, now wouldn't that be something. Comment there on an article in yesterday's courier mail that he would be open to offers and that the Melbourne franchise are whipping together a \$600000 deal to lure him back to our Cultural capital. Brian "Wally" Waldron already sowing the seeds of doubt and concern all over the shop.

Sunday 24/01/2010: I noted last night prior to hitting the hay that the Reds had posted a victory over NSW in their trial match in Lismore. Also noted Tim Walsh being reported this morning as having a reasonable hitout. Walsh was a flyhalf I rated many years ago before he was lost in the system. I would rate him above any other 10 currently in Qld so his joining the wider training squad is a positive thing as flyhalf is one of many areas that Qld has little. Many disagree with me, but the one being touted for the job in my humble opinion is way out of his depth and does not have the ability to control a game (playmaker) that is needed at this level.

Sunday 24/01/2010: As I received an email about it yesterday, I guess it must be public knowledge, that another school in the GPS system will be looking for a First XV coach as I type. Will be of some interest to see who gets that slot.

Saturday 23/01/10: The Reds have their first hitout today against their old foes the

Waratahs, in the northern NSW town of Lismore. Not sure if that will give us any indication of just how woeful they will be in 2010 but the teamsheets don't inspire any feelings of supporter bravado. A lot of guys there do look sensational with pill in hand, but what many forget is that for 50% of the time you have to stop the other guys when they have the ball, defence is not a strong point in there. In fact in Qld's case they probably have to stop the other guys 70% of the time. We will see how the game goes. I see the Qld captain Phil Daley is already saying that Qld is treating it as much more than a trial match. These guys should not be allowed to speak to the press, seriously.

Saturday 23/01/2010: During the week just gone I sat with and chatted to one of the most passionate young coaches I think in Australia. It is always good to be around people like this and to feed off their enthusiasm and passion. However, in this guy's case, not only passionate, but incredibly talented as a coach, and with a killer instinct to boot. You have to have that killer instinct, and one thing I will say about many coaches around the place in rugby, skills and text book focused, but no killer instinct, no mentally dominant traits. You have to win all battles on the field, all the little contests, and the mental battle is one of the big contests. As we agreed when we chatted, you want to "own" the guy across the space. We were talking scrums at the time, but it doesn't matter which space.

Wednesday 20/01/10: It seems that the further we go, and the more sanitized all games become, and the more politically correct the whole structure becomes, the less entertaining the games become. Cricket is a prime example, I actually go and watch cardboard fade to wake me up after a half hour of cricket. Rugby at an international and provincial level is just above fading cardboard, and rugby league is probably the most entertaining but nowhere near what it was years ago when we had some characters in all games, Benny Elias, Mark Geyer, Steve Roach just to name a couple. Sad really. I note this morning that Foxsports has labelled Mat Giteau a master playmaker, gee I wish some people would understand the game, a master playmaker he is not, and I do not think he should be playing 10, and neither should Cooper from Qld. Playmakers of recent times are guys like Andrew Johns, Steve Larkham and Michael Lynagh.

Monday 18/01/10: Watched another really good rugby league classic on Saturday, the 1988 grand final between Balmain and Canterbury. Canterbury coached by a very young Phil Gould, and Balmain coached by one of the smartest football brains in the business, Warren Ryan. Canterbury got home of course, but back in the days when the players all had jobs, and names like David "cement" Gillespie, Wayne "Junior" Pearce, Ellery "The Black Prince" Hanley, Paul Sirronen, and of course Benny Elias. If Elias wasn't the best on field in a losing team I don't know too much, not sure who got

the gongs, but love him or hate him, it is the sort of "giving blood" for a cause performance you want in your side. Of course there were some great hits, lead of course by Cement Gillespie, but back in the days when scrums were contested, and violence was allowed. The game was called by Graham "Heaps" Hughes, and I still regard him as the best caller of a football match there is, assisted by Bear Maurice and Rex "Moose" Mossop. If Hughes is the best, then Mossop, a dual international, is pretty close to the worst, with some Murray Mexted type quotes making the television call. Mossop though was a genuine tough guy, playing 8 tests for the Wallabies as a lock, and 9 tests for the Kangaroos and was known for his toughness.

Friday 15/01/10: Been thinking alot lately about the scrum, and we all go along to "learn how to scrum sessions" and then blindly follow what we are told. Personally I look at something and ask, "how the hell can that work?". Like this one, and I know the answers that most will give, but "why do we want our tight head hitting down". As a loosehead/hooker, as soon as I know that is what he is doing, he is going to eat dirt for most of the day, his face will probably meet a knee a few times on the way down (I would just not take the hit and slip out and up) and in the old days he would have got a good old slippering around the back of the head. I would take the punt on the penalties, be careful where I let it drop in regards to red (scoring) zone etc. Whatever happened to coaching the very simple yet effective "closing the target". Unfortunately I know the answer that most will give to that as well and from a purely technical base it will be a correct answer, but it just doesn't transfer to the world that some of us know as heaven, the contact zone at scrum time.

Friday 15/01/10: Returning again to Qld's "wonderful identification and development structure" (sarcasm there people), I have long, long, well always actually been of the opinion that people need to play, should be playing. This training for the sake of training is a waste of time and actually takes away from the focus of why we are training. Surely we are training to play, so shouldn't we be playing. Talk to League kids, and I do, and they play alot of games, 50, 60, 70 games a year not uncommon for some of these kids. Rugby youngsters, mostly might be lucky to scratch up 15, lucky, some in the academies and things there, would be lucky to get 5 or 6 some years. I have said it so many times before, there is nothing that beats honing your skills against a guy that actually wants to physically and mentally hurt you, makes you much sharper. Whatever the do gooders and lawyers try to turn the game into, today it is still about contact, as much as you are coached to avoid contact, you won't be able to for 90% of the time, so it is important that we prepare everyone for contact, and pain and intimidation.

Friday 15/01/10: Just checking my webstats, which I haven't done for a while, currently been read this month by a large law firm on the Gold Coast, and the CMC, one wonders

what that may be all about; don't think I have done anything wrong, nothing I can remember anyway at this particular moment in time.

Friday 15/01/10: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sW0hWK_yuks Been looking for that for a while, one of my off the wall favourites, have a listen, it's a beauty. some of you older dudes and dudettes will know it. Lots of noises and flashy terms coming from the new Queensland CEO, let's hope the noise and trendy words turn into action and results in retention. Think you can still read it on the Brisbane Times Website. In actual fact, here it is, well the link anyway. <http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/rugby-union/reds/reds-dont-expect-rebel-raids-20100113-m6sk.html> One shouldn't be so harsh, but remember the last CEO we had, don't worry if you don't, he was very easy to forget because he never said anything, seemingly never appeared at anything, and no doubt took home a tidy little CEO sized salary at the end of each pay period. If nothing else though it is a good, motivating read. Back on the CEO thing, let me go back to the QJRU Under 15 and QJRU Under 17 sides that recently (October) played a couple of games in Sydney. We hit old Sydney town and we were greeted by the CEO of the Waratahs, Mr Jim L'Estrange and the NSWJRU president. When we left, no such wishes of good luck and fortune from the Reds CEO of the time.

Thursday 14/01/10: Macqueen for Melbourne for 3 years, a good move, they could win a title in that time. Damian Hill from Sydney Uni joins him, apparently a highly credentialled coach that at one stage was talked about as assistant in Queensland. Now we watch Qld players off contract at 2010 end, and particularly more of our talented youngsters. A very high level Qld Coach once said to me, and not that long ago either, that Queensland had the best development (player wise) structure in Australia and naturally my response was quick and to the point "Even if it is, it is just a waste of money if you can't keep them." I would also be of the opinion that "the system" and those within it, in many cases identify and develop the wrong people, we get and keep those that can't tackle, those that make one dramatic and brilliant play regularly in school footy (this dwindles as they are forced up the ranks to once every 3 games). The previously mentioned is the WOW factor, apparently we need it, by the way. Trouble is, as I see it, that once per 3 games drama and excellence, id coupled to the losing of two other games through poor defence, poor options, or just the normal win it off every play brain explosion.

Wednesday 13/01/10: Other good moves from the Melbourne Franchise is their seeming ability at this stage to sign lots of internationals; 10 I think. Wouldn't it be nice to see a Brian O'Driscoll and Sebastian Chabal, couple of Argentinians, that Italian Tighthead having a run out of Melbourne, that sure would be something.

Wednesday 13/01/10: Some good moves by the Melbourne Franchise, Rod Macqueen getting a job doing something and the soon to be ex Melbourne Storm CEO heading up the new franchise. Brian Waldron has put his hand on his heart and promised not to poach any Melbourne Storm players. Yep and the moon is made out of cheese and a pig just flew by my window. There are some very, very good players in Storm colours, and not necessarily just the Slaters and co, there are some future superstars in their Under 20's side from last year as well. It would sure be interesting to read the list of off contract storm players though at the end of 2010. Slater would look pretty good with 13 on his back.

Wednesday 13/01/10: I watched one of the classic rugby league matches yesterday afternoon on Fox, from 2001, just before Wendell Sailor switched codes. The game, Broncos vs St George. The Broncos won by 1000 to 900, the score was big in any case, and Wendell picked up 4 tries and carried on like the pork chop that he is. Also in that game, Tuqiri, Gasnier and Blacklock, all trying their hand at rugby at some stage. It occurred to me watching the match, that Sailor and Tuqiri, couldn't tackle then, nor could they pass then, Sailor bombing a couple by not passing. They had really bad habits of carrying the footy in the wrong arms, but did break some of the feeble tackle attempts quite easily. The other thing that came to me was, that while I am sure it is common knowledge somewhere that Sailor and Tuqiri were signed to fill up stadia and make a dollar, the two guys that probably should have been signed were wearing 8 and 10, names of Petro Ciconaceva and Shane Webcke. These two guys on their own would singlehandedly deal with the Qld and Australian forward packs today. Big Petro has some background in rugby union, his father is a legend over Redcliffe way, where he has been described to me as one of the biggest, and more violent rugby players of his era, that frightened the likes of other more well known hard men. Petro senior, as legend has it, was a giant of a man that very much enjoyed his weekend physical outings. Webcke, well I have liked him since I saw him play first grade up here on the Downs for Wattles against Oakey as a 15 year old, he and brother Dallas struck fear into some older men that after that could only claim toughness. I know Webcke is not a fan of rugby, but gee he would have been a hit. Ciconaceva and Webcke though, never really looked at, honest, genuine good blokes that work hard, and zero WOW factor, against the flashy, loud, and not that good at rugby in reality Sailor, Tuqiri and Rogers too I will toss in. They go OK at the game where you get tackled, have a little moment to think before you have to do anything else, sequential thinking does not come naturally to these guys, but I will give it to them, they are loaded up with WOW factor.

Friday 08/01/10: We at 15manrugby media, productions and marketing, note last night the return of King Carlos Spencer to Super 14 rugby, with the Lions Franchise in South

Africa. King Carlos is certainly the king, as long as he has good front foot ball. He falls apart pretty badly when his forward pack is taken to task. Hope he goes well, he is one of the very talented and great entertainers of our sport, just check the pack in front of him and the pack he is playing against for an indication of how he might go.

Friday 08/01/10: Scrums raise their head again. One of my coaching counterparts sent me the ELV (local QCRU variations I think) of scrum laws for 2010. Uncontested scrums, and this is my opinion, should be banned, if you run out of front rowers, a flyhalf, a winger, or one of those breakaways that usually have a lot to say should be moved into the front row, but I do agree with the bit about the guy that has to leave the field causing the disruption to proper scrummaging not being able to be replaced. I had this discussion with the 160 kilogram Colombian prior to his departure for the Colombian Christmas circuit, he could now be 170 kilograms and may not be allowed back into Australia today due to his resemblance to a Bull Walrus. We were standing around in his carpark in Brisbane hearing again of his outrageous hatred for Institute (now University of Southern Qld Rugby Club) and how once he had to play in the front row in the days of no uncontested scrums. He said he got destroyed, and looked at me and said "What do you think, don't you go easier on someone that has never played in the front row before and is just filling in?" To which of course I replied, "no, you destroy them". His comment, "Typical Insitute bas....d". Not hard to get the big Colombian fired up, same when he was playing, stir him up, he would throw a punch, or several, get sent off and we were down to playing against 14 men. Spent alot of time on the sidelines the big Colombian.

Thursday 07/01/2010: Very quiet here in Gotham City today, no Jokers or Riddlers to be seen anywhere, not even a cat in sight.

Wednesday 06/10/2010: Heaps of emails flooding in on the bad boys of sport. One suggesting that we start a new reality show with all those transgressors, week by week put them in a cage of starving cats (real cats this time, tigers and lions and those big black mountain cats) and attempt to survive. The choice of course would be the cage with the cats, or a good old fashioned bandsawing of a nominated appendage, arm, leg, something useful, but in the case of an arm or a leg we would let them nominate their second best one!

Wednesday 06/01/2010: Well another transgression involving a professional footballer, and this guy is a serial transgressor by any stretch of anyone's imagination, and fire on New Year's eve. I am not going to use his name here, I don't need a libel suit, and most importantly I never want to wake up as a guest of her majesty, and find I have a guy named Bubba as a bed mate, not a pretty thought. There is a possibility here that I

will upset some animal lovers, but one needs at times to make a point. If a working cattle or sheep dog was as hard to train as this particular buffoon, you wouldn't even waste a bullet on it, a quick and forceful whack with a hammer between the eyes would do the trick. These guys though, let them say sorry, send them off to North Queensland to "disappear" for a while, and then give them another \$500 000 per year contract. There are some other filthy indiscretions that come to mind far worse than anything an animal has ever done, Nate Miles for one, he is still allowed to be highly paid. Punishments need to be far, far harsher people, and yes livelihoods need to be affected, there has to be a price. Perhaps, in the case of men (don't see too many pro sports women in the idiot parade), the first indiscretion could be punishable by bandsawing off an appendage, then second one by bandsawing a hand or a foot, as if two indiscretions happened, the sack is also going to happen and the hands and feet become optional extras.. Just joking on the bandsawing folks, but wait until I get elected leader of this country!!!!

Tuesday 05/01/2010: Bit disappointed in Christmas, I was hoping to receive The complete Guide to Yodelling in 40 easy lessons and some Peruvian Fighting fish for my new aquarium, alas I just got chocolates, another X in the shirt size coming up?

Tuesday 05/012010: The year rolls mercilessly on and one really needs to fix this website. How long have I been saying that for now? Almost got there at one stage, but it all got too hard, people wanting to use different software to that which I use and like. Anyway, maybe coming soon. After watching the Country vs City DVD a thousand times to cut it up that way I wanted it, I realized I had never really written too much about it. Suffice to say though, and I am unsure what the boys thought, but from a coaching perspective, it was a very sweet victory, probably my sweetest. And none of it would have been possible if the young men didn't want to play, play they did, and tackle they did. No WOW factor in that Country side, just a heap of good old fashioned workhorses lining up to keep on doing the business.

Monday 04/01/2010: Folks, "When Two Tribes Go To War" is complete, fine work too, some of my best. Have to admit I enjoy the tribalism that can be generated through battles of a city country, state vs state nature, it is quite special.

Sunday 03/01/2010: 2010 has arrived, and the world again did not end, apparently it will soon though. A little rain here on the Darling Downs, and a weekend spent on the Qld Country DVD, some of my best work if I do say so myself. Easy to see when I isolate a number of decisions and habits, why City did not win the encounter, even though they had plenty of opportunities. If I am lucky I will get this thing finished today after work, and can send it out and fill the two orders I have!!! First though, I thought I

would respond to all those wonderful critics of mine out there in rugby land, all those knowledgeable souls who mostly I am yet to meet, but who also know everything about me, my faults and failings and what drives me, if only they really knew. An interesting group of people indeed, the latest being that I should not be able to coach a team because I have not coached a team, interesting. My memory tells me I started coaching teams in about 2002, was coaching about 40 games a year until 2005, coached the DD U13 in 2003 to U16 team in 2006, achieved as good as or better outcomes than anyone doing the job now, became involved with the Regional College, now Junior Reds from 2007 forwards, in 2009 coached the Junior Reds in a match up with the Gold Coast Junior Reds, we lost that one 20 to 14 at Gold Park, then in Sept/Oct, coached Qld Country in a win over Brisbane (was that the only Country victory over Brisbane on the day?) and finally assisted with the QJRU Under 15's in wins over NSW and the ACT in Sydney. Anything to do with me, not at all, I just empower people to express themselves, and have some good understanding of what it takes to compete with Brisbane and Brisbane based sides, plan around that and let the boys follow the plan. I know that my over the top critics read this, begrudgingly, to try and see what I am up to, occasionally I get serious, and folks they say that you are only as good as your last game, and while I take no credit for it, my last 3 games involved coaching teams look just about OK to me, so read it and weep people, read it and weep.

Thursday 31/12/2009: Last day folks, last day. Nothing spectacular going on in my little world, that's for sure. I should be in bed today before the sun goes down, been a big week, you gotta love getting out of bed at 1am and not getting back there until 8pm, but that is life. Working on the Qld Country vs Brisbane Under 15 DVD, titled "When Two Tribes go to War" and featuring of course the Frankie Goes to Hollywood song of the same name. If anyone wants one, you know where I am. Should finish it Saturday I hope, before getting back to work Sunday, man these Public Holidays just annoy me. 2009 in rugby terms will be or can be remembered as the year the Reds and Wallabies sunk to new lows, the year that professional sports people dominated our sensationalist media headlines for all the wrong reasons, culminating with a couple of very special and big "wrong reasons" down the back end of the year.

Thursday 24/12/2009: Christmas 2009, year has disappeared fairly quickly. It's been a great year. I have enjoyed every minute of what was termed the "Global Financial Crisis", (my how I hate that phrase) interest rates were and still are way down, share and real estate discounts were outstanding, and now, as reckless and wayward spending picks up, we are well on the way to the next one. Please world, don't hesitate, bring on the next one soon. I came to hate two well used but never backed up terms used all the time now on the news to panic the masses, those terms being "A

new report just released says....." and "Experts are predicting.....". Questions that always should be asked, references used for the report, who the hell are the experts? But don't just believe it, that's for sure.

Wednesday 23/12/2009: Well, just checked the Reds all dressed up in Christmas gear, and I have to say they look about as frightening and intimidating as a Christmas Pudding, big WOW factor, zero fear factor. That's where we are at I suppose, WOW factor is in, tough guys are out. I remember a high level coach said to me once that everyone coming through into rep ranks had to have an X Factor, something different from everyone else. This means to me that the next guy again, has to have something different again from the last guy. Folks, there are only so many ways one can cart or kick an ovicular and inflated piece of leather (now plastic) into the scoring zone. The other issue that I have is, that no one has ever been able to define "the X factor". Now I am a basic human being, I like to be able to define and quantify stuff. For me, tough guys, that can perform the basic skill sets at high pace and through fatigue is about what is needed, not guys that can jump up in the air, look very pretty and avoid physical contact all game. Some of these guys would not even have a bruise after a test match I think at times. Out of the tattoo parlours and hair salons guys, grab an axe and cut down some trees, grab a shovel and a wheelbarrow and shift a few hundred tonnes of sand. Wouldn't hurt anyway.

Sunday 20/12/2009: The professional sports circus continues. You could make a pretty fair "team" of law and code of conduct violators. I started to write a list the other day and I ran out of paper, for 2009 alone. Wouldn't be as good as my "men of facial hair" team though, now that would be a cracker, Andrew Hore, Jason Eaton, Sebastian Chabal to name a few strong facial hair performers. Alas I fear there would be zero current Aussies in this side, their moustache and beard growing efforts on the recent tour were woeful, looked like they had been drawn on by an eyeliner pen. Anyone watching the cricket? I caught my first half hour of the current season yesterday. What a farce the game has become, Dennis Lillee and Javed Miandad, Jeff Thompson and a few of the other good old boys, Ian Chappell as well would have spent most of their lives suspended. It looks like Australia and the West Indies are playing at a level similar to that played by emerging cricket nations like Bangladesh.

Thursday 17/12/2009: Only December and already a very interesting schoolboy coach movement here in sunny, and dry, Queensland.

Thursday 17/12/2009: Christmas time, inevitably and infallibly the time of the year when on a micro and macro level the human race disappoints me, happens every year, and human nature tells me that it will continue to happen, probably even get worse.

Thursday 17/12/2009: I understand the DVD's are now in the market place, so hopefully all the 15/17 year olds have their copies.

Thursday 17/12/2009: What a stellar month in Aussie sport, Cooper, Beale, Gallen, Wicks that I can remember painting a wonderful picture of the career path that is professional sport!

Tuesday 15/12/2009: Jonathan Thurston makes the news this morning, we here at 15man thing it is about inflating an asset value, but if he did come and play rugby in Australia, he would just become another non tackling back, joining all the rest that we have. Allergic to it? Good ball player but he doesn't tackle too much.

Tuesday 15/12/2009: The Downs and South West Junior Reds squad kicked off training on Sunday, I say South West because one young lad travelled in from Charleville for the session, and then headed on to take part in the Gold Coast squad's camp. Obviously we are a few short with school holidays but it was a hot session on a hot day with some committed young men. A picture of attendees on the **Sunday here:** The Sunny Queen Farms gear from KooGa looks the goods. 4 Queensland players in that shot, with a few more to join us, and the only two 13 year olds in the state programme. Add to that two very good rugby league representative players, the squad takes on a much harder edge in 2010.

Tuesday 15/12/2009: Well it was over in a heartbeat, I maintained my title as one of the best hallway fighters in the world. Challenged by number two son in a very restricted area last evening, before he knew it he was squirrel gripped, his thumb made it into my mouth as he tried to rake my eyes, and he was on his stomach, in a very vulnerable position. The old guy wins, wins quickly and wins well. I look forward to the next challenge.

Sunday 13.12.2009: It was pointed out to me today by one of the 15manrugby staff that one of the current Qld squad members, a prop, has the nickname "Shredder"..... because of his dance moves for goodness sake! There used to be a Qld and Wallaby player called Nigel "Shredder" Holt, so given this nickname due to his propensity towards violence of all kinds against his opposition rugby players. I did see the great enforcer stopped one night out at Roma though, in 1985, by argualbly one of the best nad toughest players I have played with, against, or seen one David Aitken. I never found out why the two didn't get on, think it went back to their school days in Brisbane, but Dave cleaned Shredder up in the first lineout with a sequence of great punches.

Saturday 12/12/2009: Finally got to watch the Barbarians game the other afternoon. Probably the best game I have seen all season, international wise anyway. Couple of

points, did anyone notice, that as soon as the Australian Hooker came on, scrums started going to deck, despite all his over stated starting position. Point two, anyone notice just how effective Matt Giteau became (I still think he is a 12 or 15), when he had some forwards with some genuine starch in front of him, Burger, Matfield, Du Plessis, just to name a few. Funny how effective, accurate and precise forward work open up the space for the inside backs, granting them time to do stuff. Wonder how many noticed those things.

Saturday 12/12/2009: I note on the Brisbane Times website this morning, that Queensland's most recently deposed coach has stated, re the most recent court case, that 21 year old professional sportspeople find it difficult watching their mates do things that they can't each weekend! Just turn that around if you would and give a thought to the 21 year old "Mr Average", maybe a student with a part time job, perhaps pulling down \$400 a week, with rent, books and all that stuff to pay. Is it not OK to look from his side and have him wondering just what it might be like to be earning \$12000 per week for 9 weeks? That I am afraid Mr Ex coach, is not an excuse. Success and sacrifice go hand in hand, people need to stop defending professional sportspeople that cross boundaries that just should not be crossed. If they can't do that, then they should be shown the door.

Friday 11/12/2009: We watched some of the Dubai sevens last night, watched the Aussies blow a two try lead to lose it with the conversion well after the whistle. Two things here, Eddie Quirk's moustache is not good, and we looked and looked and we would go close to swearing Ed was wearing eyeliner. Will be looking forward to Ed's explanation of that. The Aussies dropped plenty of pill and tackled just like Aussies do, with their hands. I also saw a number of really good disappointed looks, just like Morgan "The Bus" Turinui does, running backwards looking disappointed.

Thursday 10/12/2009: My quick calculations on a Wallaby tourists earnings while in the UK and Japan were a little flawed. For example, if one of the tourists played in 6 games, that would be approximately \$69000 in match payments. I assume these blokes get paid for all matches, they don't do anything else for nothing. Then let's assume the tourist is on \$250 grand a year, or in layman's terms, a gross weekly sum of \$4807. From memory, they were away for about 8 weeks, so contractual earnings at \$38456, gross, plus a week back in the country, \$43263 in contract payments, plus \$69000, total earnings of \$112263, or for the 9 week period, \$12473.67 per week. Not a bad bag of lollies there people. Considering most of these people are under 30, maybe all, it is a very attractive pile of cash, less tax of course. No wonder some of us would offer to have our second best arm cut off to swap lifestyles.

Thursday 10/12/2009: Let me tell you all, I have just been reading about and viewing pictures of the "Mudflat Olympic Games" held in Brunsbuttel Germany in August. What a marvellous event, could tie in well with the tallow proposals we currently have before the IOC and other bodies.

Thursday 10/12/2009: Someone asked me the other day if Tallow Wrestling, naked tallow wrestling that is, had died a natural death. The short and long answer to all that is "NO", but some of the stuff, in fact most of the stuff written on this subject is unable to be put on a family website, it is subscription only type stuff, and until someone tells me how to do that within the bounds of all this type of thing, we will continue the same way. We have recently had the Sandy Tallow Oyster Knife Fight on the beaches of Coolangatta where a very important cup was on the line, and won in convincing style by Mammal Fat Mick, with assistance from The Chairman. That is all I can reveal here, but it is a hell of a read, as is the battle of the Goondiwindi hyperdome!

Thursday 10/12/2009: The new Reds jersey does nothing for me, and I am a strong advocate for change, but some things need to remain tradition bound. At least the tears of blood cried into the playing apparel won't be quite so obvious as another long Super 14 season unfolds for the QR Queensland Reds. If you check their draw, quickly, it is quite horrific, they could easily be 0 from 5 or 6 early on. A big key will be a big performance against NSW in the opener, if they can knock them over at home, then it should roll into the rest of the season. Let's not forget, for the stable of flesh NSW had last year, they too were severe under performers.

Wednesday 09/12/2009: I am quite disturbed. There has been so much written about an alleged event last weekend on the Gold Coast. Personally, I couldn't care less about the legalities and procedures, the system should be robust enough to deal with all that. What disturbs me is the continual reference to greatness and stardom. Let me assure you that this particular individual is far from great, and in that Wallaby side only one that I would rate as great, that individual being George Smith. Greatness is many things, and as far as rugby is concerned, mark down Tim Horan and John Eales as two of the best. Good footballers, overcame adversity, continually played at levels that were perhaps not expected, and very, very importantly, displayed humility on and off the field, accepted loss and success equally well, carried themselves so well in public and in the public eye, were well respected by people they played with, people they played against, and the sporting public around the world. I just wish the media would ease up on the sensationalistic crap that it continues to bleat. And even then, I think words like great and heroic are very strong terms for sportspeople, when you examine true greatness in humanitarian terms, people that have put it all on the line for a belief, a cause, and ask nothing in return.

Tuesday 08/12/09: Who can believe that if the Soccer crowd get the world cup to Australia, they will control all of Australia's major stadiums for 4 or 6 weeks, for two years. Year one for goodness sake is a trial run. I see talk of State of Origin in March, NRL starting in February, AFL speaking of abandoning a season.

Tuesday 08/12/2009: On the news this morning, and they want us to pay for this contrived sensationalist crap, a survey by a beer company nonetheless, has found that 80% of women think it is OK for their partners to go out drinking with their mates. Was there ever going to be any other result given who was conducting the survey? And for those of you that fall for that sort of tripe, please contact me, I have an array of stuff for sale that will make you young again, will guarantee you instant selection in national teams of your choice, bridges for sale in Alice Springs and other places of interest, very reasonable prices.

Monday 07/12/2009: 4 Test matches, approx \$45000 in match payments, plus the contract number, buys a really nice laptop, complete with some rather nice accessories!

Saturday 05/12/2009: Well thinking of having a themed Christmas Party here at 15manrugby house, as we shrug off the effects of a blistering day. The theme that comes to mind of course, is one of Rocky Horror, and I get to dress up as Frankenfurter, have to dust the gear off, a while since I have worn it, and I get to choose who will be Eddie as well, so I know who I am ice picking. Ah how I miss the fishnets!!!

Friday 04/12/2009: Some good news awaiting me on email this morning, the king of "no idea" refereeing James Leckie has been moved out of the ARU panel, and another of my favourite referees with little understanding of the contest and the need for physicality in this game, Matt Goddard has retired.

Friday 04/12/2009: Well the CD's appear to be going over a treat, except with son number two who claims vehemently that I have stolen his idea. Not sure what he is on about.

Friday 04/12/2009: The place to be in Aus at the moment, the killing fields of Australian politics. They really are a dreary bunch, no one amongst any of them that inspires any feelings at all, just a bland and useless bunch really. Bring back, Joh, Russ, Don Lane, Gough, Bob, Paul and a few of the boys that had a bit of fire in their bellies. Most, if not all of our current batch of pollies seem to lack an credible ability in any field, and I really do mean that. To be honest, I wouldn't feed most of them.

Thursday 03/12/2009: We here at 15man media, photography and video productions, are about to release a number of CD's. First out will be "Noises of the Scrum", followed

by "Sounds of the Ruck", "The Call of the Lineout" (Track one here will be titled ' Not Straight Sir' and my personal favourite, "The Bleating of the Knowledgeless Expert", and one of my favourites here, no two of my favourites here, "Get it out to your winger" and "Tackle Low". Look out for it, or pick it up yourself from floor 29 of 15manrugbyhouse, yes we do have lifts.

Thursday 03/12/2009: I continue to be amazed at the reports of how well the Aussie tourists have done in the last game against Wales. I thought the props played OK, along with the perennial George Smith, but it ended there for me. Wales were rubbish, and the Wallabies played well enough to beat them. I am not sure the scribes writing about these things really understand the game, but if you look at the Australians, they are really good at falling over at the breakdown, where as New Zealand, France and South Africa move threatening players out of the road with the use of power and aggression. Our backs, well some of them have developed this jump in the air ballet dance type move, they jump up, waggle their feet about and when they land, they have done nothing, gone nowhere. I am in no way denigrating the fine art of ballet, but a good looking ballet dance jump has no place in a game where power (look up the definition people) and speed and strength are required.

Tuesday 01/12/2009: Random phone call this morning from the tourists with the Aussie Schools side. I was out of the office at 4:28 when the phone rang, and noted it was from a private number. Made me suspicious to start with. Then the message came through, and the caller was identified, and was, as I didn't answer the original call, chasing extortion money for a report on the Aussie Schools tour. Sorry guys, no dough coming so I will just have to go without. the two callers, could well be tallow wrestlers of some considerable note, although I am yet to see how hairy they are.

Tuesday 01/12/2009: I was thinking while watching the All Blacks vs France game, the Aussies are lucky they aren't selected on Moustache growing ability, the whole touring group would be going home. People like Andrew Hore, Sebastian Chabal and Jason Eaton are men that can grow a moustache, in fact, packing against Andrew Hore would be like packing against someone with Razor blades taped to his face.

Monday 30/11/2009: Scrum Mania 2009, I won it on a forfeit, no mention was made of it when the time came to actually engage in some physical contact. I had prepared well, hadn't showered for 4 days, hadn't cleaned my teeth to bring about total repulsiveness, and had sharpened my fingernails ready for some action. It was like waiting for a Hurricane that passed harmlessly by, not even a whisper, plenty of bravado and talk pre the agreed date, come the time, nothing!

Monday 30/11/2009: Well finally the saga of the DVD's for the Qld Under 17 side has

been completed. After putting in a heap of time last weekend and weekends previous, the software or old computer decided it was just too much and wouldn't render up the project. So went out and got a super computer built and some new software, and then, it wouldn't work, so back to the computer shop on Friday. I am sure I got ripped off here, but anyway, they got it working, and boy is this thing fast and the new software pretty cool. Anyway, got it all finished (the Under 17's) yesterday morning and posting off to the QJRU this morning (they want to send them all out together I think). Apologies for the delay on that one, tremendously frustrating my end as well.

Monday 30/11/2009: Already I hear bleating this morning on how the Wallabies have set new benchmarks, they sure have, low ones. If they are honest in their appraisal of the Wales game, they really dished up a bit more rubbish. Wales played a game of what we here at 15manrugby call "no idea rugby". In fact they played it that well, I don't think it could be emulated again, ever. I think we have found two new centres, they were wearing numbers 1 and 3. I still have no confidence in the ones we had. Giteau, yep looked OK when he was wider and deeper, giving him time to think, identify the opportunities and play to them. Tells me he is not a 10. Our 12 looked busy around various breakdowns, but if you look closely, achieved little, just fussed about alot like a chook that you have only half hit with the axe, and half it's neck is still holding on. The Aussie kicking game wasn't good, someone needs to teach these guys that it is more than dropping the ball and swinging your foot at it, the really important part is where the pill lands and how the kick is chased. The South African nightmare in the North continued with that loss to Ireland. Game of the weekend was the All Blacks vs France, with a very good All Black display bringing home the game. Again some violence and physicality coupled with some very good football made the game watchable, wasn't hard to see that the French were fired up. Some more great scrummaging in there from both sides as the game wore on, but the first two from the Frogs were rippers. Shame the referee on occasions decided to penalize the dominant scrum. A little eye gouging added to the spectacle, with a couple of cameramen keen to get involved in the fracas that followed. How does the old saying go? When in Rome.....

Friday 27/11/2009: And just while we are on scrums, I have a proposal for the IRB Law department re scrums in 2010. I know they are massive readers of the site and take on board all I say. I want to divest the referee of any responsibility in the scrum, aside from making the mark, and maybe whistling if it needs to be reset. Other than that, the Laws should dictate that, if the scrum is near a sideline, he head off and chat to the touch judge, or maybe someone in the crowd, while the 16 guys involved sort it out. If it is a centre field scrum, he could chat to a winger, a flyhalf, one of those guys in the backs in any case that have little to do with the scrum area. Things like punching, gouging,

biting, kicking, rucking, elbowing, headbutting should not only be made legal, but encouraged, through send offs for not using such tools of the trade. There should be no such thing as a penalty from a scrum. I expect to see this type of arrangement up and running in 2010, will make for a much more exciting and confrontational game.

Friday 27/11/2009: Well if I were to believe the noise coming out of a certain young guy's mouth last night, this will be the last piece I write, as I am to be rendered incapable at scrum mania 2009. I note though that he has shifted the venue back on to the tiles, must fancy stitches in the head over a bit of boot savagery it seems, obviously hedging his bets a bit there. Interesting that now that he is getting a mention, he is back to reading "the rubbish" that I write. Although, I did forward a tallow wrestling article, and an important one, to number one son yesterday, and he asked me what in the name of god it was that I was on about. Young folks, just don't understand the realities of life.

Thursday 26/11/2009: I have just read in our local paper, the funeral notice of a great, great man. Dr Jim Blaikie, 73 years old, wonderful man in many respects, a great rugby man and referee, and in essence, just a great man. The number of associations placing funeral notices attributes to that. I was at school at the same time as three of his sons, I think those three all playing first XV footy, and the one closest to my age, Keith, receiving a Qld Cap from up here on the Downs. He supported the club that I played for all those years ago so strongly and so fondly, as he did the school his boys attended, and as he did rugby in general. A marvellous and broad Scottish accent, the world is indeed a much poorer place with the parting of this man. One of my favourite memories of Jim, and there are many, was when I had stopped playing first grade and was enticed into playing one game of C grade one particular night. Unfortunately for the poor third rate side we were playing against, so had my two front row partners, and we had talked a tough young guy by the name of Mark Murray, who would go on to represent Qld at all age levels, still 17 at the time to have a game. We were murdering their scrum, they were terrible, and how they finished the night without serious injury still astounds me. Jim tried many things, asked us to be nice, asked us to go easy, which we did, until after one particular scrum, their whole pack was seemingly on the ground and in somewhat of a mess, their hooker looked up from a position of no strength and said to me, right, now you are in trouble. This scrum was reset, and, inviting trouble, we destroyed their scrum, put it on the ground, stayed on our feet and sunk the boots in. As we were about to reset the scrum again, Jim climbed between the front rows, and in his magnificent Scottish accent, in a pleading sort of voice, said, if you do anything like that again, something will happen, his face begging us to stop. We destroyed the scrum again and Jim fixed it alright, sent two of us off for bad behaviour,

no replacements for send offs so he saved these guys in the end. It was very funny at the time. Another particular time Jim was reffing A Grade and we were playing Warwick, and we loved getting under the skin of these guys, they fired up easily and often ended up with someone being sent off. Jim was aware of this, and while he was a fully supportive member of our club, went about righting some of what he saw as wrongs. We had stirred up their guy that usually went to the fist early, now known as the 160 kilogram Colombian. He was suitably angry, suitably quickly. The big guy has come into a ruck, and just let go with a massive punch, flooring one of our guys, knocked him clean out, right in front of Jim. Jim has said, "Great punch number 5, Play On". Long may we be lucky enough to associate with great men like this. My thoughts are certainly with his family today, fantastic people in their own right, and you don't have to wonder why. Vale Dr Jim Blaikie.

Thursday 26/11/2009: Wow son number two informs me last night that "I finally got to read that rubbish that you wrote". He disputes the accuracy of the report and has issued a big challenge, anytime, anywhere, for a full on scrummage contest. This I can't wait for, should be this weekend, will dust off the old French Caps, those of you old enough to remember will know these boots were banned, they have a single tag like a rat's tooth at the front for flesh gouging. I will wear them just in case I get the opportunity to put him on the ground and stay up and just walk most vigorously over the top, a favourite pastime in scrums of old. Given the boots and preparation, we are obviously going to go outside to contest the event.

Tuesday 24/11/2009: The weekend just past saw an interesting challenge, in my kitchen of all places. Son number 2, who at 19 gets overwhelmed with bravado at times, challenged me to a scrum duel right there in the kitchen. Young, fit and towering over me, one would have thought he had the advantage. No question, the longer a contest were to go on, the more advantage he would have. As usual I was keen to shut the job down early with some creative play. Now this guy is also a fashion guru, needing to shower, deodorize, gel the hair and don the designer clothes for a trip to the car in the driveway, unlike his old man who prefers to do it naked. He warned me that I had socks on and could be in trouble on the tiles, I disagreed and prepared to lock horns with the young bloke, who has spent all his life playing in the backs. It really was a simple manoeuvre, I called the engagement, my kitchen, I am surely the sole judge of fact and law (my referee readers could help me with that) and hit him square in the side of the neck, while getting a finger into each eye socket as quickly as I could. Next move was simply to drive his head into the tiles, his forehead and prepare for the reset, but of course he had had enough. The reset plan was to rip the top corner of my head into the bottom of his eye socket, but of course I was accused of cheating and all sorts of

awful things, so no reset. I was quite disappointed. I couldn't be cheating, my kitchen, and I was the sole judge of fact and law, so all was good. I thought it deserved a reset at least. I actually enjoy it more when he attacks me or challenges me and I have to pull out some of my special self defence techniques, and he goes away for a while, before being overcome with another dose of bravado. I look forward to those times. Now he will read this and have another account, but I am the sole judge of fact and law, and also have the reporting rights on in house battles. Point being, technical perfection, strength, fitness and age advantages rarely beat playing to win at any cost.

Tuesday 24/11/2009: Interesting day yesterday; received lots of feedback on my little short below on the Wallabies, well I got one phone call, one email, a text and two smoke signals. That was my one reader using all available methods to contact me and say he agrees. I had a bit of a look through the 1984 tourists side and record yesterday. 3 massive locks in Steve "Skylab" Cutler, a doctor, Steve Williams the vice captain, and Bill Campbell are one of the early things to set this side apart. Now they played 18 games with 32 tourists, losing 4 and drawing one, but winning all the test matches, with Mark Ella scoring a try in every test match. Probably on initial glance, the big stat is hooker Tommy Lawton starting in 11 matches, Michael Lynagh featuring also in 11 but one as a replacement. There were no tactical substitutions in 1984, you had to be deemed medically incapable of playing on, and blood wasn't considered an incapability. Of course the 21 year old and 120 kilogram Lawton's backup on this tour was the starting hooker for the Qld Reds, the very violent Mark McBain. Some enforcers in the pack, Steve Williams, Rodriguez, Codey, McBain off the bench for sure another very tough man. The 1984 lock combination would stitch up the 2009 lock combination with ease. As good as he is, I am not even sure I would take Benn Robinson over Topo Rodriguez, one of the world's great props. George Smith might make the side, we were talking days pre specialist open sides as we call them today, but gee Chris Roche didn't go too badly in that area. David Codey another guy that surpasses what we see today, big, violent, no prisoners style of rugby. The backs, well plenty of class there too, Farr Jones starting to make his mark, Ella, Lynagh, Gould, Campese, Slack, Peter Grigg (played most of his rugby from Townsville, Qld Country) and I will continue to argue that the role of flyhalf is very bad for Mat Giteau's play. He does not need to be burdened with all the decision making, the guy is an instinctive footballer that needs to play out of 12 or 15, with a bit of space, and not too much burden. His kitbag as a 10 looks relatively empty, as I always thought did Timmy Horan's when he was shuffled into the role. More to follow as I come up with it.

Sunday 22/11/2009: Well here we are again looking at another Australian test loss, and from what I hear (I couldn't have been bothered getting up for this one) an atrocious

performance. With all due respect to the very great Tim Horan, I have no time for the current Wallaby midfield, can't tackle, won't tackle, or don't know where to be to make a tackle, systemic work is overly poor. The next person that tells me the system is working well or is right, deserves to be headbutted. Continual reliance on a few schools who play 8 games of footy a year is delivering what we currently have. Don't be mistaken about that, in any way shape or form, it is no surprise that the Kiwis and the Boks are better than us, they play alot of rugby people, and play alot more rugby than anyone in Australia. We have an overpaid group of trainers, mention an extra trial game and they want cash, cash and cash. Meanwhile Dan Carter, Richie McCaw (note those two names) are slugging it out in the ANZ cup, Bakkies Botha and his mates are belting each other in the Currie Cup. Our players are training, and watching these competitions on TV while they throw back a beer or two, and talking it up in the media about what they are going to do in the next game. Next game never comes. To even speak about this group in the same sentence as the 1984 grand slam Wallabies is a travesty. Guys like Topo Rodriguez, Tom Lawton, Michael Lynagh, Mark Ella, David Codey, Steve Cutler, Andy McIntyre, Roger Gould, just to rattle a few names off, guys that could play pretty well. I wonder what the sponsors are thinking?

Monday 16/11/2009: Some good footy over the weekend, with the France vs South Africa game taking the gong for violence and physicality, coupled with some decent refereeing, basically saying to the destroyed Bok scrum, learn how to do it properly, or get smashed, and penalized at the end of being stitched up as well. However, over in Ireland, if you want to destroy a test match, just put the (r) beside Jonathan Kaplan, and you have a recipe for disaster. Guy destroys the contest and really pulled some terrible calls and penalties in the Irish match, both ways. Australia is improving, midfield defence a problem, and the lineout, breakdown much better, and scrum quite destructive. France have the scrum though, and seemingly an ability to produce continually the ugliest bar none of front rowers ever to be seen on the face of the earth. The rugby league, another quality performance without question, for a while England were in that, but the Aussie side just showed what happens when you turn up and keep turning up for 80 minutes. Like the Crusaders and the All Blacks, the score with 20 minutes to go is irrelevant, the score at full time is what goes into the big record book, and the book records a flogging to England with many points from the Aussies in the last 10 to 15 minutes blowing England off the park.

Thursday 12/11/2009: A big weekend of sport almost upon us. Let's hope for some super serious physicality and violence in the league test on Saturday night/Sunday morning, and of course an Aussie win. Dunno, that pack just seems short of enforcers, up against Adrian Morley for example. I think in the rugby over in Ireland,

Australia will be right up against it, tough Irish pack, super backline, Australia might not win a lineout against these two old hard heads. Let's hope I am wrong, and Mat Giteau inspires off a continuing forward improvement. Defensively, our centres may be in some strife, loane looked lost close to the breakdown against England, and better sides punish that gap that appears. Digby may be the best ball carrier and biggest line breaker in the Southern Hemisphere, but you do have to defend for some of the game, and playing for Australia usually more than 50% of it.

Sunday 01/11/2009: Fresh from another test defeat, Deans must surely be tearing his hair out. I read on Foxsports this morning that Australia finally competed at the breakdown, not sure what game they were watching, Aussie ball was always slow, New Zealand ball was often fast. Until they figure out how to get consistent, fast, moving forwards ball, God himself could play at flyhalf and still would get belted. Scrum competed, lineout was woeful, they looked OK when they got a little pattern on the move, but it was soon snuffed out by New Zealand mastery at the tackle/breakdown. Digby loane looked like the only guy that was going to or had the ability to break the line, really, Wallabies were not good. Matt (Bubba) Ryan was scathing in his assessment of all things Australian rugby on his Facebook page yesterday and this morning, he can be, he has played at that level. Nothing epitomised the performance more than the channel one, slow inside pass from James O'Connor to a sideways moving, upright James Horwill that saw him just get wasted upon touching the ball. Things you just don't get away with at this level.

Friday 30/10/2009: Just received info that Matthew To'omua, 2007 BSHS 1st XV captain and 2007 Aus Schoolboys vice captain, is flying to London this afternoon to join the Wallabies. I am sure the young man is over the moon.

Thursday 29/10/2009: I don't want to destroy everyone, only my enemies ("Don" Michael Corleone, (Al Pacino), Godfather). My I love that line!!!!

Monday 26/10/2009: Some fine test match rugby league on over the weekend, but boy those pommie commentators annoy me, it used to be the guy on specialist duty; he still does, now we have the guy walking sideways behind the posts after tries. Commentary taken to a new depth, he really has nothing of substance to say.

Wednesday 21/10/2009: Just read the Gold Coast Junior Reds Squad on the QRU website. Now that is a serious squad indeed and will take some beating come game time in February. The Junior Reds stuff just keeps going from strength to strength.

Wednesday 21/10/2009: Look out for it, some yet to be seen photos of Qld Country, jersey presentation, team shot, and a few action shots that someone took for me, no big lens though. They will go up on the other site, so probably tonight, keep looking for them.

Tuesday 20/10/2009: Another fine day in paradise people. Last night I watched a fine bout of

boxing, Tyson vs Holyfield, Tyson's fourth fight after getting out of jail, an epic in itself, with Holyfield stopping Iron Mike in the 11th round. More magnificent stuff, a violent bout, these boys hit quite hard. Tyson's record until this fight was 45 bouts, 39 wins, and there would have been a lot of KO's in there. Holyfield knocked him off his feet for only the second time in his career in this bout.

Monday 19/10/2009: Some quality rugby over the weekend out of New Zealand and South Africa, in the form of the ANZ Cup and the Currie Cup. Aussie players sitting back could well watch this and come up with an answer as to why we are behind in playing ability; because we are sitting back, and they are still playing rugby at a very high level, All Blacks playing as well. The New Zealand games at times had catching the ball as an option, but enjoyed Vinnie Munro's (referee) style, just let them bash each other, and get into each other with their feet on the ground, fantastic stuff. However, the weekend's highlight was the viewing of the 3 stages of hell Wrestling bout between two of my favourite wrestlers, Triple H and Stone Cold Steve Austin (the Rattlesnake), a tremendous bout fought over 50 odd minutes, and found on youtube, with some great ring accessories like a piece of board with barbed wire wrapped around it, a sledge hammer, and various chairs and other pieces of material from outside the ring. What a bout, what a bout; this wonderful bout took place in Las Vegas Nevada, February 2001, one of the all time epic bouts. Triple H of course has entrance music of "Time to Play the Game", which may appear on a locally produced DVD rather soon! Of course it brings thoughts of Tallow Wrestling and the bout coming up between former World Kick Boxing Champion, The Punisher, and the most enthusiastic Red Barron, back from Holidays and rearing to wrestle, in a flaming death match. I have to say, on another matter, I was interested to hear, on the ABC TV of a week long oil wrestling festival in Turkey, we need to attend events like this.

Friday 16/10/2009: We at 15manrugby have many debates, on many subjects, we are an opinionated bunch. Dream backline: 9: Cooper Cronk, 10: Berrick Barnes, 11: Michael Jennings, 12: Greg Inglis, 13: Jarrod Hayne, 14: Brett?? Morris, 15: Billy Slater. Can't even find room for Israel Folau in there. We are also big fans of finding a spot for Fuiyui Moimoi and wrecking ball Asotasi, and we are also impressed with the workrate and toughness of Dallas Johnson.

Thursday 15/10/2009: Last night I watched a half hour of Extreme Bull Riding on ESPN. I do love those Bulls. Now bullriding is a sport that fascinates me for its sheer stupidity. Bullriding obviously involves the riding of 1000 to 1500 kilos of quite angry beast. For those of you that know Bulls, there is quite a wide expanse of back, and nothing to grip on with your legs. They definitely do not like anything on their backs. They are also not too happy to be put in small enclosures, and manhandled. The rules then further stipulate that the flank rope be tightened, to make them very angry. They really dislike the flank rope. You can only hold on with one hand, and then the rules further stipulate that to make the beast angrier, you spur him as hard as you can. When I went to bed last night, it was bulls 7, Cowboys 2, with a couple of severe injuries, one rear hoof landing firmly and hard in the kidney region just as the cowboy hit the ground, and another getting lifted by a massive set of horns as he made his way over the fence. I am yet to quite figure out the fascination with riding these creatures, must be an adrenaline rush I guess.

Thursday 15/10/2009: The 150 kilo Colombian tells me in an exclusive interview that he has hit 160 kilos. That is a magnificent effort in leading the wrestlers out of the wilderness of the world of the skinny. He attributes this 10 kilos of weight gain to tallow fortified drinks, and lots and lots of them.

Thursday 15/10/2009: Quiet week! Those intrepid 15man readers that tell me they drop in every day and are disappointed when nothing changes, have been disappointed all week! More dust yesterday, shouldn't be long until we see self sufficiency in Brisbane, with wheat crops being grown on the top of all those tall buildings, using the dirt blown in from Western NSW. I believe Ewen McKenzie starts work in Qld today, what a job. Is Qld looking to become the bad boy state, Brendan Fevola, Broncos chasing Tim Smith, and word was they were chasing Willie Mason, and they already have a couple there who have trouble in their name string somewhere.

Monday 12/10/2009: Ah Murray Mexted, came up with a clanger on Saturday during the ANZ Cup clash. Can't reprint it here, suffice to say it rolled off his tongue and I sat in sheer disbelief at what he had just said.

Sunday 11/10/2009: Reading Ewen McKenzie's talk on Foxsports, he has hit the nail on the head, but it is not a hard nail to hit! Recruitment, retention and culture. Good luck Ewen with this mob up here. I didn't see him mention "Wow Factor", but maybe later. He did speak about Qld having almost a Wallaby backline, almost being the key word in that sentence.

Saturday 10/10/2009: The Aussie Schoolboys staged a second half comeback, after dominating the first half, to be beaten 28 to 24 by an undisciplined New Zealand Schools side. [**A full look at the game here,**](#) no photos though, just watching this one.

Friday 09/10/2009: Word just through, NSW Schools get the Under 16 Champions title by 20 to 5 over Qld White. Unsure at this stage how Qld Red went in the 3 v 4 playoff.

Friday 09/10/2009: Looking forward to the Schoolboys test tonight. I will be supporting the Aussies at this level, but won't be backward in appreciating the Kiwi style and application of violence. There are some fine young men in this Aussie side, one of them their captain, who we of course displays all his skills and abilities tonight. There has been a fantastic referee appointed, so let's hope for a great, physical, fast match, and one that is injury free. Good luck to the boys.

Thursday 08/10/2009: Back on tallow wrestling, we have a new and very keen competitor inducted into our ranks. Known only as The Punisher, he is I am told very good at "The Squirrel", so very much looking forward to this competitive wrestler hitting the scene.

Thursday 08/10/2009: Meant to write yesterday, that the Qld Red Under 16 team got beaten by NSW Schools 29 to 8, so now play off for third and fourth against Sydney Juniors, and Qld White also moved to the final with a 24 to 17 victory over the aforementioned Sydney Juniors. I hear that Matt Berwick scored a great try from 13 to reel the White side back to 17 all. Also heard that the Red side got smashed badly through the middle with some most excellent committment shown by the NSW ball carriers and great breakdown work from them.

Thursday 08/10/2009: Tuqiri is not the magic potion that the Reds need in any case, the Reds need some genuine tough guys in numbers 1 to 8 that know if they don't perform they don't get to eat, or buy petrol each week. Ask yourselves why the game of rugby league is like it is, off field incidents aside. Greg Inglis and Billy Slater would be worth more than the entire 4 provinces of rugby players in Australia yet they turn up and play passionate rugby league for their club every week in a very hostile and confrontational environment.

Wednesday 07/10/2009: Jeez, today we hear about Tuqiri playing for Qld as an amateur and having someone pay him several hundred grand to polish their shoes and take their bin out. Sounds almost as stupid as John Connolly being the coach, but sadly, that is on the cards. Point two, I wouldn't feed too many of the guys currently playing for Qld, they already are in the amateur class! From what I hear in any case, several good feeds a day and a play station coupled with a wide screen TV will get most of the Qld guys these days. Ah and Rocky Elsom saying that no one would ever roll over in a test match. Some of us in TV land see it differently, guys get \$11500 per test, win, lose or draw, so why would they care? The game by the Wallabies in the last test was a disgrace, the All Blacks followed by the Springboks will be supported by us here as 2009 finishes and 2010 rolls in. The Reds and the Wallabies are over and out.

Wednesday 07/10/2009: Some pics of the Aussie A vs New Zealand **[game up here:](#)**

Wednesday 07/10/2009: Early morning here at 15manrugby house, great view from the 17th floor. Just knocked up something on the **[Aussie A vs New Zealand match here:](#)**

Tuesday 06/10/2009: While I was in Brisbane I shot a few photos, and I like them anyway, you can see them **[here](#)** and **[here](#)** or you can just go to the next page!

Tuesday 06/10/2009: **[QJRU vs ACTJRU match report up here now:](#)** Photos will follow, I promise. **[A short report on the Under 17 match up here now too,](#)** I was on the end of a video camera and you don't get to see all the game. Many thanks to Steve Chapman for videoing the Under 15 game for me, it is much appreciated. Some pics up now, **[here](#)** and **[here](#)**.

Tuesday 06/10/2009: One thing we noticed on our trip through Waratah headquarters, was a distinct lack of a wow factor department. It was asked about, but Wow factor is not a requirement in NSW! More on this later.

Tuesday 06/10/2009: Qld White 65 df W.A. 13 and Qld Red 50 df Vic 17. Queensland results from day one of the 16's tournament in Sydney. Today is the day, will get into a bit of writing before today ends people, I promise.

Monday 05/10/2009: Took an extra day of holidays today, tired and the Aussie A side was playing on the coast, so headed down. Well boys, way too much wow factor, and nowhere near enough tough guys. That New Zealand side will take some handling on Friday night, pace, power, precision, and some very big guys. They don't do fancy stuff like crocodile rolls and all that jazz, they know the beauty of violence, and they know the shortest way to the chalk is the straight way. Many of the Aussie boys went missing today, that is for sure. We at 15manrugby, sitting here now on the 30th floor of 15manrugby house, reviewing the video of the game, certainly like the Kiwi 10, the 4, the 13, the 7, and the massive Rodney So'oaiolo look alike that came on as reserve tight head prop. We also noted the Red Baron cutting an awesome profile on the sideline, amongst many tallow wrestling identities, given the day off from wrestling duties to watch the footy, our second passion in life, but I swear the nighthawke was there, maybe the fox amongst many others. Oh, the score was 47 to 7 to the Kiwis with Aussie crossing midway through the second half, when New Zealand made plenty of changes. The Kiwis also bombed 4 to 6 tries in the first half, surprised I think to be seeing themselves in so much space.

Monday 05/10/2009: I just heard that Qld Red Under 16's touched up Victoria by a big score and that

Qld White were leading Western Australia with time to play.

Sunday 04/10/2009: Home from Sydney, with plenty to tell and plenty to say, some funny stuff and lots of rugby stuff, even a little tallow wrestling stuff. First, today's results, QJRU Under 15's 26 df ACTJRU 0, and the QJRU Under 17's 34 (I think) defeated ACTJRU 5. 3 days away, 4 games of footy, 4 wins to the travelling Queenslanders. Lots more to follow, some photos, not as many as I would normally, tied up coaching, and too much rain, and today on video duty, but we will put something together.

Stay tuned!!

Sunday 04/10/2009: Woken up to plenty more rain this morning, will be another tough day at the office for the boys. None of them up yet at 5:44am Qld time, now 6:44am NSW time. Will just have to see how the day pans out. We are out of here quite soon, so probably no more writing until I get home.

Saturday 03/10/2009, in the late and wet afternoon. Just back at the computer now, after forging deep into enemy territory with the QJRU Under 15's and Under 17's, and getting the chocolates in both games, in a most hostile environment, very satisfying indeed.

Under 15's, after being down 7 to nil at halftime, clocked 10 unanswered points in the second half, in the form of two second half tries, unconverted, to get the gong 10 to 7, and the 17's, down 11 to nil, fought back and won by 20 to 11, in driving wind and rain. Needless to say there are 46 happy boys floating around the Narrabeen complex at the moment. I will endeavour to get full reports up tonight at some stage. Well done boys.

OK the Under 15 match is now written and up, [and you can find it here](#). I have a few photos but they may have to wait until I get home. [The Under 17 report here:](#)

Saturday 03/10/2009: A cool, windy, murky, overcast and rainy day has greeted us in Sydney. Certainly a change from what we have been experiencing in Brisbane, and certainly very different for playing rugby. It will be an interesting day, and all things being equal scores and match reports will be up, maybe even as soon as straight after the game.

Friday 02/10/2009: Fresh now in Sydney at the Narrabeen Sports complex on the Sydney Northern beaches. What a sensational welcome we were afforded by the NSW Rugby Union, with a tour of their training and administration complex, and a great talk from their CEO, Jim L'Estrange. It is a very professional outfit, and I wonder how many of our Queensland kids will end up here in NSW in the years to come.

It is gloomy and overcast here in Sydney, a little rain on the way up. Boys are full of energy and seemingly ready to play. It has been a good trip but a long day.

[Under 17 team picture here:](#)

[Under 15 team picture here:](#)

Friday 02/10/2009: Another month underway, and still this website a mess. About to leave inner city sanctum to board an aeroplane and head to Sydney, where The QJRU Under 17's and QJRU Under 15's take on similar ages from NSW and ACT. It will be a big trip, with two games at this level in two days sure to take a toll on the boys. Watched the Under 17's train yesterday, gee some good young men in that side, Gerard O'Hare, a lad by the name of Beauchamp (spelling??), big Mick Bermingham, Liam Eagle, being the ones I know. They look like they will go pretty well. Photographed and videoed the Jersey presentation yesterday, with Willy Genia, so have that on record if any mums and dads are looking for it. I promise I will write some stuff on the Country vs City game, soon, maybe even on the plane on the way down.

Monday 28/09/2009: First day of QJRU Under 15 training complete, and the boys seemed to gel together OK. Boys were all naturally excited, and looking forward to the challenges ahead.

Monday 28/09/2009: World I have failed you, promised something would be up on the Country 15's last night and there is nothing there, however, should be able to get to it this afternoon and tonight, if the remote gear works for me. Do have a few pics as well to share eventually.

Sunday 27/09/2009: The Qld Country 15's managed to get up over their Brisbane counterparts, in what was a very close match, the more I look at it, the closer it was. The country boys got up by 13 to 5, one try apiece. Will write something soon. Day has been busier than expected.

Friday 25/09/2009: Been in camp with the Qld Country Under 15 side since Thursday, great group of young men, ready to play. And they play tomorrow morning at 8:40. Many thanks to all that have helped me cover my many inadequacies, much appreciated. These boys will go well, they have trained and mixed together well. A quick pic of the side today taken just after we presented the jerseys. Jerseys were presented by Nudgee First XV coach, Todd Dammers, and again I thank him for that. I had in mind Jordie Tuapou and Curtis Browning for the job, but Jordie was away with the Australian Schoolboys side, and was named captain yesterday. One day soon I will list this lad's achievements from a 13 year old, and tell you what a fine young man he is. Vice Captain, Rowan Saifolo also from State High. I mistakenly thought that Curtis would be with him, but alas the A side was not away. Would have been great to have Curtis there, as he is a boy of pretty much the same age as these guys, and I could have worked on the ear rings and tattoos that he so badly needs, joking, joking all you over sensitive serious folks.



Wednesday 23/09/2009: Well haven't done much here this week, been busy again. Been enjoying today's dust immensely. Not much happening now for a few days either, in Bris and Sydney for the next week and a half on tallow wrestling duty, plenty of bouts scheduled in there and media performances, look out for it. Its been a while since I have whipped a cat across the bandsaw too, so lock up your moggies, keen to get one of them across the machinery. I still owe Glen Osbourne some payback, from the dinner last week. And it will come, that's for sure.

Sunday 20/09/2009: All the hoo ha and fanfare about the Wallabies being back and on track etc etc got put to the sword last night. Words like dreadful and inept, and certainly nowhere near tough enough come to mind. One game does not make or define a team, a season, a succession of games or seasons does, and if we were looking for a definition of this team and this era, well, you can think of the words yourselves. We at 15manrugby turned the telly on yesterday, and watched the Sydney Shute Shield finals. I wouldn't believe you if you told me there weren't several blokes on that paddock that could be Wallabies. Both sides would dismember the Reds, some very good footballers playing some good footy. We really liked the hitman in the Eastwood pack at 6, don't remember his name, don't need to, he is an axe. The whole Uni back 5, Lachlan McCaffrey, all better than most of the Reds in the same positions. Australia need some changes, changes in personnel, and changes in the way contracting is done, it's too easy to make a few hundred grand, there is no incentive and no care factor. The backrow balance, never right with Smith and Pocock in the same backrow, but many thought it was after one test win. Number 8's need to carry the football and need to leave a train wreck in their path, remember Kefu, current coach Williams, and many others over the years. Smith is closer to a 10 or 12 than an 8 if you are not going to play him at 7. Our backline carries no physical presence at all, all very small men, our second row went missing, again, and when Stephen Moore entered the fray, our scrum went even further to the dogs. Scrums weren't good all night, but I didn't think our front row lost the battle entirely until we changed

hookers. There was one stage I saw one of our locks complaining to the referee about being cleaned out, boys just get on with the game. Our breakdown work was tepid to say the least, some of the cleanout work from the Blacks was savage, and I liked Brad Thorn's work yet again. I still thought the Kiwis were ripe for the picking, their midfield is not what they would want and lacks a full rounding of skills, if ever Australia were going to beat them, last night was the time. Next year, guys like Carl Hayman will be back, Chris Jack, Ali Williams, and other kids like Aaron Cruden and Robbie Robinson will surely be making a mark. Not sure where the Aussies go from here, but there may still be some way to fall before changes are made.

Sunday 20/09/2009: Some days they used to say, the Phantom would leave the skull cave and the jungle, and walk in the town like an ordinary man, Friday the 18th of September was one of those days for me, and I trekked to Brisbane on a gorgeous Friday to attend the Redlands Sportsmans lunch, at which the guest speakers were former All Blacks Eric Rush and Glen Osborne, and former Qld Reds player, David Croft. It was a fantastic afternoon, about which I will write more quite soon, there has to be a comeback to the very cheeky Glen Osborne, and put up a couple of photos.

Tuesday 15/09/2009: Spent Sunday at Ballymore watching the prelim finals. Brisbane turned on a tremendous day, a little hot for footy, but superb for spectating. Of course everyone knows the filth, otherwise known as Brothers, advanced to the Grand Final over the Easts Tigers. A couple of Keiron Landers hits were worth the price of admission alone, especially the one on that winger on the chip chase, not sure how he got up, and of course always good to see Eddie Quirk bleed from the head, a nice rich red blood he spouts. He bleeds so much better than he grows facial hair, and that is a story for another time. I am told on good authority, namely Ed, that he had a big set of ginger handlebars recently, where as now has gone for the stately moustache with sideburns, but one of them won't grow, and in light ginger, need some mud, or blood rubbed in so we can see. The young bloke though is playing some pretty good footy in premier grade, in his first year out of school.

Sunday 13/09/2009: Personally, thought the test match last night, de bokke versus the flightless bird was a cracker. I am not in agreement with the chorus of people that wish to remove drop goals and penalty goals from the the game and the kicking game last night was astounding from de bokke, general play and goal kicking. They are great skillsets that should be maintained in the game, take them away, and the game becomes closer again to rugby league. Not that I dislike rugby league, some super displays of that game recently too, but there always needs to be points of differentiation. Those that call for an end to kicking or points reductions for this or that, probably struggle to understand that differentiation. I think Stephen Donald may have played his last test, he was dreadful, and I thought a few other All Blacks went missing in a very, very physical test match, McCaw and Thorne not being two of them. If de bokke can figure out how to play as ruthlessly for 80 minutes as they did for the first 40, they will indeed be unbeatable. However, that is not one of the great All Black sides either, nor have they been playing against one of the great Wallaby sides, and there have not been too many points in many of the matches. Throw in some other All Blacks from overseas like Carl Hayman, Chris Jack and the All Black pack suddenly takes on a much stiffer look. Don't know what they do with the backline, Nick Evans is a quality back that comes to mind that has left the country, but one kid that is playing the house down in the ANZ Cup is flyhalf Aaron Cruden and will almost certainly be an All Black within 12 months, this lad can play, and has a full kit of

skills and tricks. The other one we like is Robbie Robinson, Kiwi Under 20 fullback this year, yet to spy him in the ANZ cup but I would warrant he is playing there somewhere, very impressive young rugby player. However, one needs to bear in mind, that New Zealand went very close to winning that test match, and they rarely looked like they were even in it, 38 minutes to win a lineout. The only place they held firm superiority was in the ground battle, and of course we know who is responsible there, one R. McCaw. The physicality was magnificent, lots and lots of brutality dished out by both sides, that is what the game is based on.

Saturday 12/09/2009: Was watching a tribute to Richard Lowe on youtube during the week, certainly makes my side of tough guys, possibly first selected.

Saturday 12/09/2009: I noted during the week an ex Australian front rower complaining that New Zealand scrummage illegally. Please, what is illegal when it comes to the world of the scrum, and if they are scrummaging illegally and getting away with it, then perhaps Australia best start similar illegalities, or make up some new ones, rather than be taking some of this high moral ground in the media. Remember, it is only illegal if you get caught!

Friday 11/09/2009: Queensland stalwart Sam Scott Young comes up with the saying of recent times last week on Foxsports, and it goes thus: "When I was playing, I would rather lick the toilet bowl than play for NSW". Sammy, for those of us that saw you play mate, no need to go to the low level extremity of tonguing the Fowlerware to show us how passionate you were about that maroon jersey, we know. The question is how do we instil similar values into today's overpaid underperforming group.

Friday 11/09/2009: As we sit here on the 17th floor of 15manrugby house late on a Friday afternoon, pondering the recent events in Qld rugby, the latest being the sacking of head coach Phil Mooney. We wonder where to from here. Not much in the way of playing stocks for the 2010 season, no CEO, no coaching staff to speak of at the professional level. What happens now at the professional level, Qld will probably finish 12th or worse in 2010, does the next guy get the chop then too? Personally I think what really has to be looked at, when the right staff are in place, is certainly player retention. It was once said that in the amateur era, Qld had the most professional administration structure in rugby, over the last couple of years maybe a reverse of that in the pro era. I am also not sure of why the QRU is running out of money. The Global Financial Crisis, my how I have grown to hate those words will be blamed, but folks, the smart just keep stacking up the cash in times of "recession", they see opportunity. This is the ARU, I know, about 3 or 4 months ago I tried to book a corporate suite for the September 5 test match, and they were sold out then, figure there is at least 1 to 1.5 million bucks in those things, given the \$1000 per head asking number, so will never believe that the corporate dollar is drying up, but it is all about how you approach the corporate world, how you service the sponsors and give them some value, point being, the dollars are there, but it takes work to get them. Coaches, who knows, it is a hanging job at the moment for sure, Ewen McKenzie maybe, could bring Gasnier, could pull a crowd. There may be some other people out there that would see opportunity in playing with Mark Gasnier, who knows. I see a comment on the Courier Mail that Horan should be on the coaching staff. Guy has never coached before, great player, in my 5 best ever as seen by me, as is Wally Lewis, and Wally was a dreadful coach. I wouldn't be thinking of throwing Timmy in the deep end straight away. While appreciating the need for an

experienced head coach, there are a couple, maybe three young coaches around the ridges in Brisbane that I rate very, very highly, and would encourage the powers that be to start bringing these guys through as next generation Super 14 coaches. As for players, they are everywhere too, a kid let go years ago by the QRU, Sam Hannant would ably fill the midfield, 12/13, he is a brick, fast agile, and would probably go for the opportunity and 50 or 60 grand, cheap. Seems to be plenty of good players in the Sydney club competition, a quick look there wouldn't hurt. We need some forwards that are not unlike McCall, tough and uncompromising in his day just like locks should be. Players cannot run the show, they are after all employees and do as they are told, or move on. This is of course said without knowledge of the contractual arrangements in place, and what the cost of cleanouts is in paying out years left etc. Whatever the scenarios may be, systemic overhaul is required, and hopefully slaughter, although not holding an executive role, will start the drive of that process. Time will tell, but time is short, and is of the essence.

Saturday 05/09/2009: Well it seems I could not have been more wrong about the Wallabies on this particular night, but happy to be wrong on this occasion. They scrummed the house down, and best on field for mine goes to a 15man favourite, the Hippo, Benn Robinson. He is awesome and sitting here on the 17th floor of 15manrugby house, we believe that he will be one of the great front rowers of this era, also with some nice passes, a fantastic turnover, and a couple of carries. Pocock played the best game I have ever seen him play, and Genia made a real difference. A halfback than can bench press 170 kilos, interesting. The other one adding so much to the Wallabies is Berrick Barnes, thought he was very special, not sure how many realize how hard that flat pass to Ashley Cooper was to pass. However, the season cannot be judged on that performance alone, and that needs to be the start of a long period of similar staunch efforts, every test match must be a do or die.

Friday 04/09/2009: The big test tomorrow night, someone said to me today that he thought Australia would win, well they might, but I wouldn't be putting any of my hard earned on it. Not tough enough, not brutal enough, not hungry enough, nowhere near on the verge of greatness, sorry Chis. Greatness is All Black sides for just about ever, but particularly the Sean Fitzpatrick era, the side of the John Eales/Horan era, maybe this Bok side, bit more to do yet though, let's not throw great around too easily. However, I would give you my own money to pack down in front of, and throw to Matfield and Botha. I admire blokes that are just plain tough, and have a desire to hurt people severely, not a desire, a priority. Quintessential second rowers or locks for mine. If they are on their game, they will put 20 or 30 on Australia. Perth was a disgrace, no excuses. People getting paid that much get the "don't come Monday" for performances like that, and only about 5 get to stay, The Hippo, Benn Robinson, Elsom, George Smith, Matt Giteau, and Berrick Barnes. Don't blame the players though, have a look at the system producing pretty, skilful, stepping dancing footballers with what is termed the "wow factor". The system needs to start identifying and developing tough guys that can play, love to hit, and love to be hit.

Saturday 19/08/2009: I am about to head down to Georgia, I need to make a deal.

Saturday 29/08/2009: completely lucid and sane this morning boys and girls of rugby land, The Queensland Country Under 15 side was named yesterday on the QRU website. Unfortunately gun rugby league convert, and hitman Luke Ash has had to pull out with a broken hand. The side loses a great deal of dynamic ball carrying prowess and defence with Luke's unavailability. There are some

great league players still in contention at the Qld 16's trials, Sam Harold for one, voted the best player at the nationals tournament in Adelaide recently, so the best Under 15 rugby league player in Australia. This boy is built, and looks the goods. Matt Berwick is still in the mix and Sooape, a fantastic athlete who looks like he could play 13, 11, 14 or 15. I am a big supporter of cross code involvements, the code of rugby needs the best athletes playing the game, simple as that.

Thursday 27/08/2009: Almost holidays, and all prepared for my holiday in Gotham City, have the cape packed and the Utility belt all shined up with tallow, and with plenty of spare tallow to keep the bandsaw lubed and ready for instant use.

Thursday 27/08/2009: The great tallow caravan just rolls on, with "Tallow Wrestling" now being in the top 10 search terms for the site. Just for the record though, we think that when, or maybe if we get there, heaven will be made of tallow. We also think that cats and bandsaws are a perfect match. Additions to the Tallow Wrestling team of late are "Killer Joule" Ken, "The Mop", so named due to 6 inches of soft wavy billowing grey hair covering his body, and "The Don", a name synonymous with grease. The next bout, week 4 in our Tallow Wrestling circus, is to take place at the Goondiwindi Hyperdome, next week, and will feature "Killer Joule" of course and the as yet un named South African Champion, and to round out the triple threat match, the 150 kilogram Colombian, Pablo Esco Fat.

Tuesday 25/08/2009: Just for kicks last night we watched the Wallabies vs the Lions, test 3, Sydney, way back in 2001. A great test match, in which big men carted the ball forward, got smashed, placed the ball back and other big men smashed all and sundry out of the way, often on suspicion. No complaining just get up and play on. Scrums stayed up, and there was a different engagement style, it was a violent, flowing, engaging game. Can we show some of these tapes to the current Wallabies? Fantastic to see that once we actually could play.

Monday 24/08/2009: Well my sanity has been questioned by all and sundry today, fantastic stuff, interesting in itself as I didn't think many people read this rubbish. Anyway on to the test match the other night. First comment from the two young 15man experts, after watching the shorts of a match some time back in which John Eales and Tim Horan played, that "gee, not too many tough guys in the side now". For the record, Tim Horan and John Eales both appear in my top 5 footballers I have ever seen list, so that may say something about that side. Some say we were unlucky to lose, I disagree, don't think we were smart enough, and nowhere near tough enough, and very importantly, not even close to hungry enough. Have a look at Brad Thorn, it means something to this guy, passionate, tough, committed. I rate Thorn as one of the top rugby players in the world today. You may have noted a couple of the dominant shots he got off on Saturday night, when he gets a shoulder on, you stay hit, and go backwards, carries a footy well. Guys like Carter can't look like they do without guys like Thorn, Woodcock and my favourite world hooker at the moment, Andrew Hore. The guy looks like he cuts down trees with an axe and wrestles brown bears before training, has whiskers that would sandpaper steel, and can score a try for a man with 2 on his back. We at 15man don't really rate the Aussie 2, 4 and 5, but just not sure where the better ones are, because the system keeps churning out nice, skilful players, but we want guys that are on the verge of insanity, tough guys that would rather fight than feed. Ah all the technocrats say, you are wrong, but boys and girls, it is working for South Africa, and New Zealand at the moment, big nasty guys

bashing people. Have a look at the Aussie back 3, we have gone from Tuqiri, Sailor and Latham, big imposing men that could carry a football and whack people, to Turner, Mitchell and O'Connor, talented athletes for sure, although Turner's pass leaves some to be desired, but when people are running at them, you just hope they might get tangled up in their wheels like barbed wire and trip them up, not likely to have dominant Brad Thorn defence from many across that Aussie backline, Cross maybe, but 13 a tough channel to whack guys anyway.

Sunday 23/08/2009: Well people, plenty of people commenting on my mental state, apparently correlating Nude Tallow Wrestling and me equals gone in the head. I hid that well for a long time didn't I. Was asked today if we could have a tallow wrestling free week, of course not, tallow Wrestling is the new sports entertainment phenomenon sweeping the globe, and the universe, that's right punters, the universe. So we are going to be smoking it up in the tallow, and committing cats to bandsaws.

Thursday 20/08/2009: I have just been informed by son number two that I am extremely weird. I am extremely proud of this assessment. Just after we had a debate about the article on Foxsports about Richie McCaw being always offside. People, people, people, it is only cheating if you get caught. Zero penalties in one of his recent test matches, very unfair to label him a cheat I feel. Just listening to some very medicinal Guns n Roses after a very tough week. I am a fan of guns n Roses, they sound just like one of my other favourite noises, a cat being committed to a bandsaw. I just ran out of local cats!

Sunday 16/08/2009: Did you know that it is illegal to go to a dance or circus in Mundubbera on a Sunday. You can also be fine 50 pounds for the singing of obscene songs or ballad at public bathing areas. Also some stuff about where you can beat and sweep a carpet, not in a park that's for sure. What a place, Mundubbera, up there on my list of places to visit behind Gotham City, Metropolis and Baghdad. Stunning news, changed my day, I was packing the car for a trip to Mundubbera today, in the hope of catching a dance there. And can anyone tell me, does Kryptonite really have that beautiful green glow. I need to find some!

Saturday 15/08/2009: I am looking forward to my visit to Gotham City, it seems like a nice place. Booking tickets today for the September Holidays. Hope to partake in some cat desexing and part time crime fighting while I am there.

Saturday 15/08/2009: A weekend of not much, awesome stuff. The under 15 Schoolboys is on at Hervey Bay but thought I might just take a breather and clean up, well this desk here for one. Interesting I found a link to this site from the Queensland Schools Rugby Site, and in big letters it said that this site DOES NOT REFLECT OR REPRESENT THE OPINIONS OF yada yada yada. Wow boys, if you got to use big letters, and you so disagree, and as you haven't asked any permission to link here, a common courtesy in the cyber world, then perhaps it be a good thing if you just take it down!!!

Friday 14/08/2009: I know you will all struggle to believe this, but between myself and my legal and marketing teams, we have come up with the **Laws of Tallow Wrestling (The Tallow Commandments)** and **The Tallow Wrestling Mission Statement**. It is getting quite interesting.

Friday 14/08/2009: Something serious, not that Tallow Wrestling is not serious, but something rugby

anyway. Boys and girls of rugby land, I am struggling to believe that people find the current South African side boring, destroying the game of rugby in fact. [Read my comments here.](#)

Thursday 13/08/2009: Well feeling a little better now, and with that email address back up, some emails, one complimenting the State High boys on being a thorough bunch of gentlemen, the rest, full on hard core tallow wrestling. Couple of stories to write tonight, one an utterly ridiculous [tallow wrestling story](#), the other an [account of my Tuesday night in the big smoke](#), tallow first though.

Wednesday 12/08/2009: Fresh, no that's incorrect, not fresh at all back from a function in Brisneyland, supposed to be a tallow wrestle but the Red Baron disappeared into the night. I am not sure what I promised to who, as the night became morning and I went to bed after I am usually at work, so [this email address](#) will be up for a day or two if people remember what I promised. Otherwise, all good. There will be more but right now I need to take the matchsticks out of my eyes so they can rest.

Sunday 09/08/2009: Spent the day at the Under 16's trials, not too much rugby to report, but plenty of tallow wrestling talk. I have it on very good authority that The Red Baron and The Silver Fox were discussing their upcoming mid week rankings bout at a certain 30th birthday party last night. Should be a good bout, I will try and get some footage. I also ran into Dallas, bullrider extraordinaire today, and Duncan, Olympic rower, as well as Andrew, ex State of Origin player. Dallas certainly has the thighs and size for Tallow Wrestling, but on close inspection, not enough hair, I think he might shave. The others are definitely out on hairlessness. I promised Dallas a slot as Mr August in the 2010 calendar.

Sunday 09/08/2009: I thought a couple of things during yesterday, that Bakkies Botha might get a yellow card in the tunnel for saying he was going to bash heads in the test match against the Aussies in the press, that we were going to see a new style of rugby with Bakkies again saying he was going to shift rocks during the test match, but was unable to see the pile of rocks anywhere. Big menacing forwards and a choking style of play. They are big and violent, which is good, we could do with some increased violence levels. They continue to show how valuable territory is, then take the choice of delivering quality possession in the territory or just wind up the pressure and play for the penalties.

Friday 07/08/2009: (My philosophical thought for the day) Playing rugby and rugby league carries an unequivocal desire to be hit, and to hit others. The participants must enjoy and thrive on pain, the delivery of it and the acceptance of it. If the enjoyment of pain is not in your makeup, tennis or gold pay very well.

Friday 07/08/2009: Look out for it, diaries of a Nude Heavyweight Tallow Wrestler coming soon. I found some stuff I wrote years ago, a bit of a gazette, boy funny, I had the gift back then I can tell you. unfortunately very adult so won't be making an appearance here.

Wednesday 05/08/2009: This tallow thing is getting out of hand, a call first up this morning from a long time reader wanting to have a Nude Tallow Wrestling charity event, and just in on email, this:

MAMMAL FAT MICK

Vs

MR FATASTIC

NUDE HEAVYWEIGHT TALLOW WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP REMATCH

at the

INAUGURAL WALLOW IN THE TALLOW EXTRAVAGANZA

Coming to a charity event near you.

Rating: MA+ (nudity, animalistic sounds)

Tuesday 04/08/2009: The Red Baron, The Silver Fox, names everyone will soon be so familiar with. The Silver Fox, AKA Golden Men of Tallow's Mr July, gets the July slot due to a generous covering of nice thick fur, very impressed. The Golden men of Tallow begins, [right here](#). Now before you all contact me and have your say on "what is going on with the site, etc, etc, bottom line, as Stone Cold used to say is, I pay the bills here, I write what I like. As so many of you have come to not like what I write about rugby, and I don't really need the grief, I will write about lots of stuff, and maybe a tiny bit of rugby from time to time. As I am the world's foremost authority on Tallow Wrestling, no one can disagree with me, I make the rules. so read it, laugh about it, if you don't like it, then don't read it, but lighten up and have a good day.

Sunday 02/08/2009: Time to get less serious again now, and the Golden Men of Tallow had a run for all it was worth yesterday. There are some very interested Brisbane participants, one, the Silver Fox, a gun signing, boy will he look great de geared for the calendar shoot. This week will see the Golden men of Tallow sub site, and an application form so you can get involved.

*Sunday 02/08/09: **[The first instalment up here now of the State High vs Nudgee clash](#)**. Will get some photos up soon. **[Photos here](#)**:*

Sunday 02/08/2009: State High 43 df NC12. State High would have beaten the Reds yesterday, Nudgee probably too, just not by as much. Those couple of groups of parents (note not boys, parents) who claimed BSHS were lucky victors, by 40 odd over them, you were the lucky ones, strike them in yesterday's mood, and you would have been wasted by 80. It is a testament to how good Nudgee is that the scoreline was as close as 43 to 12. Now sit back and wait a while, so much more to come. And Tallow Wrestling, on the agenda yesterday, and the Silver Fox, an older guy, not up to the weight grade, but so very hairy, joins the troupe.

Friday 31/07/2009: Back from Melbourne, nice place, plenty of night shots, probably boring for most, but here is the link to my publicly available photos, no sports shots, just other stuff I do, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/32053650@N03/> (I am still putting these Melbourne shots up, will be for a few days, so maybe check back if you are into this stuff, and stuff done I can't mention here on a family publication. I was lead into some situations, actually I probably lead the situations that got quite out of hand. Casinos, Crown Lagers and other very attractive stuff, and I don't gamble and I don't drink, but I had to supervise others that do. I think the second person that spoke to me at the conference mentioned Nude Tallow Wrestling, but he is out, too small and not hairy, no hair at all. Had a massive incident at the Brisbane airport on the way out, and another one, very fun one in the bar of the Crowne Promenade with a bright eyed Kiwi Girl, on Tuesday night just gone it was an

entertaining evening. Every trip with a Melbourne taxi driver is a different cultural, one an aromatic experience. The last bloke nearly didn't get paid, we got to the airport, and he had a credit card machine that my great grandfather used to pay for his ark trip with Noah, and it wouldn't work my credit card. He said, "mate I will need cash" and I had to reply I will be lucky to have 70 bucks. He told me I would have to go inside and get cash, I said mate, forgot my pin number years ago, you could be rooted. Fortunately for this gentleman, I scrounged up enough change to cover his 70 bucks, but no coffee money. Found though if I purchased two coffees at a time, it was enough to go on Credit Card. A fine trip, and some of the intricacies of it have been written and will probably pop up in my memoirs.

On to the footy for this week. Two games hold significance, but really folks, if State High don't win this undefeated and on their own, it will be a travesty. However, for the guys playing in the match at Fursden Road, I point you to The Man in the Glass at this link here <http://www.rayhunt.com/man.htm>, I read this every day, with some of the stuff going around me at the moment. Have a read, and feel the meaning of it all. Good luck to all participants for tomorrow's final GPS games, I look forward to the game at Carina, and the emotion that will surround such an occasion.

Sunday 26/07/2009: I see an email come in late last night telling me that the Coastal GPS outfit beat BBC, at BBC by 29 to 13, in what was for all accounts, an ugly match. The Nudgee vs GT match [as I saw it here](#). If it is not accurate, and there is a really strong chance it is not, I really don't care. Until Friday or so, I am in Melbourne, so have a great week.

Saturday 25/07/2009: Well, I went to Nudgee today, to watch the battle of the St Josephs. Fursden Road was a curve ball, remember, accuracy, and with State High winning 102 to nil, I am glad I went to Nudgee, where the home team got up by 43 to 15. In Toowoomba, Churchie had a big win, 44 to 13. AND, most importantly, tallow wrestling was mentioned to me by alot of my ardent supporters, so much so that my associates and myself have decided a page is required, here on 15manrugby, and eventually a website, The Golden Men of Tallow. At last I can talk about it, coaches of both outfits have always said, worry about this week first, well now we can. The game of the year I have been waiting for a year for, Fursden Road hosts State High and Nudgee, next week, August 1 in a match that heralds tremendous promise. Looking forward to it immensely.

Saturday 25/07/2009: Oh and Brad Meyers, wins hands down, daylight second, the beard and hairstyling award of forever. Beards and hair are meant to be uncultured, and his is the most uncultured of all. I watch the Titans just to see that beard and hair. One of the greatest things about professional footy is the ability to get away with not shaving, and that's a big one for me.

Saturday 25/07/2009: It looks like most of the league converts are heading back to league. Shame really in Tahu's case, the guy could play, or would have been able to. I heard that O'Neill has said in his book (which I am yet to read, too dear and I am a miserable son of b____) that guys like Sailor were signed to fill Stadia, which is sort of fair enough, alot of marketing, not too much rugby in there, but watching the rugby league last night, you have to think at times the wrong guys were targeted if we were looking for a lot of rugby. Is Prince not the best ball player, at the line in both codes at the moment, and can't get a gig in rep footy? I rate him way above Thurston. And of course, the code for mine should have signed Andrew Johns, not sure we will ever see another ball player and thinker of the game than this guy. I would rate Greg Inglis the number one footballer in the world at the moment, either code. He is a guy that can play, and a guy I would pay to watch play. Maybe I will be lucky and

bump into him in Melbourne next week for a photo opportunity. Maybe I should be asking if I can attend a storm training session while I am in town.

Saturday 25/07/2009: Now, before I write anything about this weekend's school footy, all those that want to take me to task about "accuracy" on various forums, and how I have to be accurate. Folks, sorry, you are wrong. It is my views on what I see, my opinion on how things unfold. So, no, accuracy does not play a big part in my outlook on rugby, however, life and philosophical stuff do. In actual fact, I spend most of my time talking these days during the footy, and just make the rest up when I get home, so 90% fiction, 10% fact, sometimes. You want to believe what I say, do so at your own peril.

Saturday 25/07/2009: Looking forward to basking in the sun today at Fursden Road. I am sure the boys would have worked on restarts during the week, I don't think Curtis Browning hit one last week against Churchie. Mind you though, the positive is, if you are receiving alot of restarts, something else must be going OK. I am sure the State High machine would have hoped to have all the cobwebs out by now and be ready to turn the heat up a little bit in the final two weeks. Looking forward to it.

Thursday 23/07/2009: Well it's over in reality, Thursday that is.

Wednesday 22/07/2009: A little rugby to talk about, not much though. with large men emailing me almost hourly wanting to be part of my tallow wrestling troupe, rugby has to take a back seat. And as I keep saying, the site is changing, rugby will take a back seat. New design not far away, we might go live inside a month. We might trim some readers, but hey, who cares. In any case, the big game this week looks to be the battle of the St Joseph's Colleges, taking place up there on the north side of town. This is a match up that usually attracts a very large crowd, that crowd factor might keep me away. Should be a biggy, with a huge atmosphere. I think Churchie come to Toowoomba, and BGS head over to Fursden Road to take on State High. Other than that it is anyone's guess, have a draw somewhere, just not sure where the somewhere is.

Sunday 19/07/2009: A big week, the current nude heavyweight tallow wrestling champion, remains undisputed and undefeated, in an extreme rules match on Friday morning challengers were put to the sword. State of Origin 2009 came to an end with a bit of brutality, at last. I agree with Pricey, it's footy, I do not agree with Justin Hodges, guys that mouth off are not usually the ones to be scared of. Pricey and White, should stay playing football, both are lucky they were not up against Chief Harragon from some years ago, who was big, strong, fit and knew how to throw the fists. I am being over run by them. First the 150 kilogram Colombian, now the 120 kilogram Colombian. Was approached by this particular gentleman at Churchie on Saturday, he asked me "who is the 150 kilogram Colombian" and told me he was the 120 kilogram Colombian, a nude tallow wrestling international match up there on the cards, between the super heavyweights, and naked, what a sight. Stay tuned during the off season for the exploits of the 150 kilogram Colombian, he is a really bad man and there are some stories we need to go public with on this guy; I have a very talented and creative young person redeveloping the website to make it easier to get around and a bit flashier, bit more attractive, and the 150 kilo Colombian covered in warm animal fat is bound for one of the pages. This guy would be still talking under set concrete, and loudly, in his gorgeous spanish accent. In any case, the 120 kilogram Colombian, pointed out to me that I was spelling Colombian incorrectly, that I was using Columbian which is an American state, where as the real deal, Pablo

Escobar and his killer hippopotami is Colombia. True story on the hippo, Colombian government had to put one of Pablo's (deceased also in a hail of gunfire) man eating hippos down last week I think.

Sunday 19.07.2009 and I have finally written something about rugby, even put a few pictures up, in fact there is a story on the **GT vs TSS game** and one on the **State High vs Churchie game**. Few technical issues with the gear, turn up in the mood to reel off a few photos, only to find one battery totally shot and the other half done. Preparation people, preparation, and there is a little saying, called the 7 P's that I missed yesterday, but anyway, what is done is done.

Saturday 18/09/2009: Schoolboy rugby returns to Queensland today, with State High playing Churchie at Churchie, TGS are at home to IGS, Southport play Terrace on the Coast and BGS host BBC. Nudgee have the bye and I think are playing Shore from old Sydney town. Only 3 rounds remaining now in schoolboy footy for 2009, then we move into the Under 16 stuff, and 15's too. We are also still waiting to see if Berrick Barnes signs with the Reds or moves to one of the two big Franchises in the cold, cold south. It's all gone quiet, Queensland can't afford to lose Berrick, but if I were Berrick, I would not be wanting to stay. Can't see Qld making an impact in professional rugby in 2010 and I have 1000 that says they finish 14th next year as well.

Tuesday 14/07/2009: I hear the State High outfit got 6 in Aussie Schools and 2 in Aussie A. I hear the 6 has never been done before by any school, and this by a State High School. My how that would make the leather patch, we think we are better than you brigade burr a little bit. Bring it on we say, there should be more of it. Well done to all the boys in the sides, I am sure it is good to be home and resting the bumps and bruises. It is a hell of the tournament. Qld 1 won it of course in a canter, with Curtis Browning bagging three tries in the 43 to 17 win in the final. An observer told me today that he thought the State High boys played that well, that the BSHS 1st XV could have won the tournament. That's a pretty big compliment coming from this guy.

Monday 13/07/2009: Just had a text through, about 4pm, that Jordie Tuapou is in the Aussie Schools side, amongst I am sure many other Qld'ers, but am yet to see that list. Did a photo shoot this morning with the World heavyweight Nude Tallow wrestling champ, and he is eager to see more challengers take him up in this extreme sport. Remember, over 100 kilos, and hairy, the only criteria we ask for. Hopefully we can get the 150 kilogram Columbian stripped down and greased up soon.

Friday 10/07/2009: Well the week is done thankfully and has taken a turn for the better as it rounded the home turn. I have been taking texts from Dallas, our bullrider all week, asking that I run a series on it, and I have tried to call Andrew, ex Bronco and State of Origin rugby league star, who is currently in Sydney, and he just will not answer his phone, won't return messages. I guess I will have to put a picture of him up. Anyway, I will write something about rugby sometime soon, I have been meaning to summarize the State Championships but it is just not as exciting as some other stuff.

Thursday 09/07/2009: Thank god it's almost Friday, I have taken a couple of hits this week, been rough. Couple of results through that I have heard of from the Nationals in Sydney, yesterday Qld 1 69 df ACT 7, NSW 1 22 df Qld 2 10, today Qld 1 40 something defeated Qld 2 7 I think. I hear Andrew, the ex Bronco and State of Origin player has been sighted at the champs in Sydney, but Dallas has been spotted at Melbas. Duncan, the rower, well we have no idea. I hear Sautia,

Kimame, Morahan, Tuapou and Gill playing well in Qld 1 and Setu outstanding yesterday in Qld 2.

Tuesday 07/07/2009: **Well here it is, the adventures** of our three intrepid partying sports heroes, bull rider Dallas, State of Origin Footballer Andrew, and dual olympian Duncan, in Brisby last Friday night.

Monday 06/07/2009: Well back from the 4 day State Championships held at Nudgee College. Rugby was pretty good, but the highlight, well the one I can mention was running into 3 famous guys, and you know who you are, Andrew the ex State of Origin player from 2004, Dallas the professional bullrider just back from the international circuit and Calgary stampede and Duncan, Australian rower at the Beijing and Athens olympics. Interesting to find three such diverse disciplines in one place, friends as well. Anyway it is a story on it's own, and it is being written as we speak, the Pig and Whistle on Eagle Street will never be the same again after the visit from these three superstars of sport. Coming soon, tomorrow I hope.

Guys and people from coaching and playing ranks, I am hearing rumours about when the Qld Country side is being selected and announced. In fact it is more than rumours, it is mouths running out of control. I am even hearing who has been selected, and no one has told anyone anything, we have a cluster of names on a piece of paper, and we have asked about players and been asked to view other players; well several pieces of paper actually and we will look at some other people between now and mid August (no not the Schoolboys unless they are club players) and announce the squad then. Looking at the Brisbane sides, this is a Herculean task coming up. So folks, if you are going to be having something to say, please get the facts correct. I haven't heard one correct thing yet, there are zero definites, except Dallas the bullrider of course, he looks like a machine. The Brisbane South vs Brisbane West final was a high class, high paced affair that was as tough as it was fast. I noted Jordie Tuapou in the South corner, Jordie was named captain of Qld Schoolboys last Friday night and will no doubt wear the jersey very proudly.

Saturday 27/06/2009. Have spent the last two nights, Thursday and Friday at Ballymore watching the Qld Schools rugby trials, where all the best schoolboy (Under 18 rugby players) in the state gather into their various sporting organization (GPS, AIC, CSS) and play off over three days for selection into the Qld Schoolboy sides, that will play in the National tournament in a couple of weeks. **My look at it here:**

Sunday 21/06/2009: Enjoyed the New Zealand vs France test match last night, the Froggies are nice and tough, doubt Australia can beat them. A lot of good players on the field, and for mine Brad Thorne was the best, and is and remains the best of all the converts from rugby league, in a position that all the gun ideas men say doesn't make for good transitioning. What's Brad got, quite a bit of football ability, an enormous amount of competitive spirit, and just a genuine, in your face, tough guy. Aussie rugby needs some tough guys, soon! The French all look pretty harsh and they have a rock solid front row that could rip Australia's open, good body shapes for the positions, and no doubt, as per all French front rows, they will be quiet violent, ruthless and tough. A couple of them certainly look like they run their heads through a meat grinder once or twice a week to maintain those boyish good looks.

Saturday 20/06/2009: Something into the "My Seat of Knowledge" section, because I can, on the

parlous state of Qld Rugby, and it just got worse last week, and a very brief preview of the Qld Schools trials. [It would be here:](#)

Thursday 18/06/2009: Fresh from my second viewing of the Australia vs New Zealand Under 20's and it doesn't get any better. Backs were quite terrible, really terrible and the wider they got the worse it became. The backline looked great with Horne, Morahan, Toua and O'Connor, but the distance to the next group (depth) seems ordinary again as is the case in Aussie rugby. Fitzpatrick was our best, and Qld could have done worse than to sign him, but we won't, Albert Annae and Slipper were OK too, well I thought so anyway. Robbie Robinson for the Kiwis was best on field. And on a final note on the Under 20's. New Zealand have the hair style game down pat. It seems the Rat's tail is in, but the winner in the Under 20's is the big Kiwi lock, combining the mullet and the dreads, a most awesome look. Hurricanes were tops in the Super 14 facial hair extravaganza, and now their national side also has it's own style. And just a final, final word, Fitzpatrick, while a very good hooker and player, needs to dispense with the white boots. Just does not look "front rowish" and it would look very obvious with those white boots churning around if you were giving someone a decent working over with the steel while he lay on the ground, in the vicinity of the ball. That's been brought back in as legal hasn't it?? And one more little thing, a few boys really need to scar up, Rob Simmons, Fitzpatrick, Schatzy, Zac Guildford, Robbie Robinson. Anyway just a few opinions leading into the weekend.

Thursday 18/06/2009: Well the crew from 15manrugby have a rugby free week, except for a couple of boring test matches. Our thoughts, naturally turn to nude heavyweight tallow wrestling and we believe that this form of sports entertainment could easily rival the WWE. What would you rather see, James O'Connor scoring three tries or big hairy, naked men in a vat of hot animal fat wrestling for the world title. No question here, this will be big. Last Friday I was with some marketing people from the world of tallow and animal by products, and he of course suggested a calendar, "men of tallow". Great idea, and of course it is underway as we speak. Reserve your copy now, we expect it to be a massive seller, and our first print run of 7 could sell out in days. Don't miss out. Have a good weekend and enjoy your tallow wrestling!

Monday 15/06/2009: A little bit on the [Nudgee vs ACGS game here](#), alot on my Friday night out and about. I did take the odd photo, might try and look at them over the next couple of weeks.

Sunday 14/06/2009: Had a look at Nudgee yesterday. Nudgee got the Firsts match by 31 to 6, arm wrestle in the first half, but weight of possession just wore Churchie down and out. I see TSS won over BGS, Terrace 52 over IGS 0 and BBC got up over TGS 21 to 17. Interest moves now to the GPS/AIC selections, taking place in the coming week. Trials then take place for Qld Schools side in the week of 22/06/2009. Also in the holidays the Junior State Titles will be taking place. I am looking for a very sweet hotel deal in the city for those few days. Some more on the Nudgee game later.

Tuesday 09/06/2009: I just read on the Courier Mail website that Bronco Stalwart Cyril Connell has died at 81. I was lucky enough to run into and introduce myself to this great man a couple of years back at the open schools championships in Dalby, and then saw him at other fixtures, he never forgot me and always said hello. If you check the State High website, I think you will find he was headmaster there and first XV coach as well, maybe in the 60's. Had a fabulous knowledge of players and what makes players tick. I am sure there will be many people remembering Cyril over the

next while and just reflecting on the influence he has had on so many lives.

Tuesday 09/06/2009: Well, lots of emails on my piece on the TSS vs BSHS match up. Thanks for all your views, but some of you are keen, that email address is really hard to find. Guys at the end of the day, it was a pretty good game of footy, played in good spirits, the right spirit, by both sides. The boys on the field are to be congratulated for that. We from 15manrugby enjoyed the contest very much, and also good to see such a high paced and high impact game seemingly delivering little on the injury front. While it is always easy to be critical, being positively critical, offering solutions seems to be beyond some. Monday saw me in the mud again at Coomera watching the Gold Coast sides go around in a trial against the Sunshine Coast, and then back to Toowoomba to watch our own (Darling Downs) Under 15 side train in the lead up to the State Titles. Given time I will also take in some rugby league, and some other age division trainings up here and maybe even on the coast.

Sunday 07/06/09: On the Coast yesterday, obviously, for the BSHS vs TSS clash, premiership deciding clash according to some. Don't know about that, with State High yet to meet a steadily improving Churchie and an unpredictable Nudgee, and having 4 weeks off now with Downlands allegedly refusing to play the State High Firsts. TSS may have an easier run home, so all is not cut, dried and decided yet, and it could still be an awful 3 way tie up. Anyway, yesterday's results, BSHS 47 df TSS 13, ACGS 59 df IGS 5, NC 31 (I think) df BBC 7 and TGS 50 off df BGS 0??. A long and arduous season for BGS yet again. **More on the TSS game here.**

Saturday 06/06/09: The place to be today is obviously the Gold Coast for the BSHS vs TSS clash. Should be a good afternoon of footy, with the result certainly able to go either way, TSS on a high after downing Nudgee, and at home. The sea breeze is a big advantage to them. State High have all the work to do, travel, overcome the crowd, and limit their mistakes. If it all clicks though, look out, it is an unrivalled speed machine across the park. Nudgee will be looking to keep their season on track and be hoping for a BSHS win on the coast after their loss to TSS last week. Churchie looks to be the leader of the rest of the pack and should account for IGS today

Wouldn't have minded being in Rockhampton either this weekend for the open schoolboys championships. Downs look like playing off for 5th and 6th as per my information, but a young bloke by the name of Dion Taumata from the South Coast side is ripping it up I hear, at 10. Dion goes to Keebra Park and certainly has lots of ability.

While on the subject of kids outside the "system" so to speak, I heard a gentleman say a few weeks back that there was no talent or ability outside the "school system". This people is precisely the attitude and belief that has delivered Queensland Rugby into the state it is currently in. It will be interesting to see how many CSS players travel with the Qld sides in 2009.

Plenty of footy coming up.

Monday 01/06/2009: Took that trip to Beaudesert yesterday to watch Darling Downs go around in a trial match against the Gold Coast. Downs played very well, and probably should have won the match after giving up a big lead to go down by 34 to 26, or something like that. Matt Gordon was probably the Downs best at 10, being both destructive and creative, unusual in a flyhalf to combine those two traits. In fact Matt was the best back on the field. Eddie Tafuga (and I have no idea on spelling), the Coast number 8 was easily the best forward on the field in metres gained, and is a destructive ball carrier, but I noted all the coast boys carried the ball with very upright stances.



Matt Gordon getting just a handful of jersey on his opposite number at Beaudesert.

Saturday 30/05/09: Well I am about to stop making predictions, not that I make many but they are usually wrong. Nudgee went down 18 to nil on the coast, and State High smoked Ipswich 75 to 10, setting up a cracker on the coast next week, no prizes for guessing where I will be, sloppily dressed and unkempt, that keeps those that think they are better than me at bay, just the way I like it. Churchie got up by 40 points to 8. I also note GT beat BGS by 50 points to nil.

Saturday 30/05/2009. No footy today, other far more important things on. Defining day today for TSS, up against Nudgee at home. Nudgee on their day should be far too strong and possess far too much firepower right across the park. However, some days Nudgee are on their day, and some days they are not, if they are off the pace they will get nailed on the coast and almost drop out of the running for back to back premierships. It is a big day, would love to be there, but like I said, more important things to attend. I have heard that today is the O'Callaghan cup up here, the annual TGS vs Downlands clash, another good day to stay away from, far too many people see an embellishment in their importance to the world on this particular day, and seek to show the world their perception of that importance. Will be heading to Beaudesert, the home of the abattoir tomorrow to watch Downs play Gold Coast in trial matches.

Monday 25/05/2009: Well slow again I know, spent Saturday on the Churchie marshlands where rugby was in fat man's paradise, wet and beautiful. Of course as everyone knows by now, [TSS beat Churchie by 17 to 7](#), Nudgee beat IGS by 28 to 20, BSHS got over BBC by 27 to nil and TGS had a win up on the hill over Terrace by 24 to 22. I got a score of BGS 12 Downlands 7, but that should have been half time if games were running at even times.

Sunday 17/05/2009: Nudgee ripped BGS by 62 to 17, IGS got over BBC 19 to 13, [Churchie got Terrace 31 to 24](#) after Terrace allegedly were in front at the break, and in one of the most over refereed games you would hope to see, [BSHS got over TGS by 43 to 19](#), with probably 20% possession and 15% territory. I will put some more up later.

Wednesday 13/05/2009: [A little something on the TSS vs IGS](#) match from a reader.

Sunday 10/05/2009: Weekend GPS results, [Nudgee 14 df TGS 6](#), ACGS 39 df BGS 7, BSHS 32 df GT 5 and TSS 60 something df IGS??. More to follow on the Nudgee game. And after a week, finally got something up on the BSHS vs TSS trial, and the TGS vs IGS trial, [you can find that here](#).

Saturday May 09, 2009: Sorry for no writing on the BSHS vs TSS trial, been a hell of a week here on the Downs, will get something up as belated as it is. Haven't even opened this programme for a week, and only scanned through the photos last night. Off today to a mystery location, well not really, will be having a look at Nudgee vs TGS during today, match of the round realistically though is probably GT vs BSHS at Tennyson. So I have no previews or anything like that, just looking forward to a nice day in the sun watching a bit of footy. I did see the Reds game last night, it's getting worse I think, Tapuai looked like a breath of fresh air when he came on, as did Kingi. I am not sure what defensive pattern the Reds are running with, but from out here in TV land it certainly doesn't seem to be one where they actually take any space off the opposition, in stark contrast the Crusaders who were at the Reds all night, and of course the Reds continue to respond with pushed passes and other silly turnovers.

Sunday May 03, 2009. Fursden Road was the place to be, well for me at least yesterday. I have never really hidden from my enjoyment of State High rugby, and always find Fursden Road a happy place to be. The boys I know are all well mannered and happy souls, most with very nice ear rings, some without, but definitely in need of them. BSHS played a brand of entertaining rugby with plenty of mistakes, and about a billion penalties against, to record a 35 to 12 win over TSS. However, the word on everybody's lips is young sensation, Chris Sautier, never really saw him get out of an idle yesterday, the opportunity to gas someone only came once and he was hit late, but he did two very mature things, more on that later, but mark down the name Curtis Browning for future reference, 16 in November and in grade 10, an absolute standout in what he does and the maturity levels he does them with. This lad needs some ear rings. The big shock was Nudgee losing to Churchie, and word from inside the Nudgee camp is they looked like pretenders yesterday, premiership pretenders was the call by this Nudgee insider. We will see, but I would hate to be TGS next Saturday, with an angry captain, Ted Postal returning from injury sure to lift the intensity of the Butchers stripes. In other matches, TGS lost to IGS, BBC lost to BGS, Downlands beat St Laurences and Terrace belted Marist Ashgrove on Suncorp. The Reds, well that was ordinary stuff, really ordinary.

Saturday April 25, 2009: [Nudgee 72 df Downlands 0](#), I heard that St Laurences defeated Gregory Terrace, and Marist defeated TGS, heard scores but they are unconfirmed. Will put something up on the Nudgee vs Downlands game, probably in the morning. Right now, it is time for a little rest. First though, and this is a matter of life and death, I lost my Camera Lens Cap somewhere at Nudgee today, so if anyone finds it, could you please hand it to your first XV coach, Mr T. Dammers, or your Nudgee photographer, they both are aware of this dire situation!! Seriously, not the end of the world, but it would be nice to get it back.

Friday April 24: Schoolboy rugby trials in earnest tomorrow with GPS heavyweights Nudgee College running a full trial against Downlands. I hear good things about Postal, Setu, Goondiwindi product Daniel Tweedy taking on the role of openside flanker and this allegedly very special outside centre from Auckland, New Zealand. I keep forgetting his name. so don't ask, but if I listen to rumours, he is about 12 feet tall, runs faster than Usain Bolt, is stronger than Marius Pudjenowski (world's strongest man) and can literally leap tall buildings in a single bound. Downlands will be well served by journeyman and captain James Gough in the hooking role, Dan O'Leary at prop, and Reino Smith somewhere in the backrow. Looking forward to the match up.

The Reds maybe looking for redemption, I am not sure, but they should be. I am never sure how one can be satisfied with losing, and my perception is that they are. People tell me that it is the current generation. These guys need to have a dig. I struggle to see them getting anywhere near the Blues in any case, who have paid them the ultimate disrespect in naming a less than full strength side.

Sunday April 19, two games of rugby under my belt yesterday arvo, Churchie vs GT in a trial and played as the Curtain Raiser to The Reds vs the Lions. There is not an adjective or phrase that describes the Reds performance last night, and one is at a loss as to what to say, or whether to say anything at all and just hope the whole thing was a bit of a nightmare. I am not going to say whether I am right or wrong, but here is my perceptions of what I saw last night.

Saturday April 18: Well off the back of a massive week work wise, so didn't get to even think rugby. Easily clocked a century of hours up and that was just at the workplace. All this talk of 4 day weeks and the like, sorry guys, public holidays and the like don't/can't exist in the game I am in. Tried to get through the Blues vs Highlanders match, but couldn't, however loved Jimmy Cowan's shot on Gopperth, not sure why he was sent off. Well I guess the law book would tell me why, but isn't this game about body contact? Phil Gould would have loved the hit, and they are only little bantam weights anyway.

However, to keep the workplace alive and entertaining and to put the area on the map, we have started the "World Heavyweight Nude Tallow Wrestling Championships". Rules are that you must be over 100 kilos, preferably hairy, and a progression of matches will see you advance to the title. Of course the wrestling takes place in a vat of warm tallow (melted animal fat, which is good for your skin anyway) and I think one of my work colleagues and I look to be favourites for the title. With two forfeited matches yesterday, we are well on our way to matching up for the title bout later in the year. Look out for it, it's a big title on the line.

Rugby, as for rugby, I am about to head off for frothy coffee and brunch, yes brunch at Redcliffe, and then hit the Reds vs Lions match later in the day.

Sunday April 12: Bit of a record last night, I got to the 61st minute of the Waratahs vs Bulls match before I could fight sleep no longer. There were about 4 minutes of watchable rugby in that 60 odd minutes I reckon. Of course Jonathan Kaplan didn't help matters, he is a disgrace, seemingly having the early onset of Alzheimer's when asked by NSW prop Dan Palmer "You have penalized the last two scrums, penalized us, what am I doing wrong?" to which Kaplan replied, "I don't remember."

Someone should also tell touch judges, or whatever they call them these days, that they are not really part of the game and to stay the hell off the field. Kaplan's little friend last night was particularly annoying. James Leckie, Kaplan and that other little high voiced Australian referee Matt Goddard, can destroy a game in a heartbeat, the heartbeat they are appointed.

Can't get through the weekend without mentioning hair. First of all, Sam Wykes, that has got to be the product of a dare, surely. I like the Highlanders, Clint Newlands has a great mullet, and I am an old fashioned mullet man myself. Hayden Trigg's beard is up there in the top 10, but for beards of culture, look to the Highlanders. Jason Eaton gets the win on creativity and hard work, a lot of angles in that structure, but for pure, unadulterated hard man beards, look no further than the ungroomed, hard, ratty mess on Andrew Hore, described in our lounge room as the beard of a woodcutter, a bit like Carl Hayman's of a couple of years ago. Andrew Hore takes out the beard competition in the 15man judging arena in any case. What I wouldn't mind seeing is the tats on all these guys, Sione Lauaki has a fantastic inking across his left shoulder, and Neemia Tialata has the whole back done. Certainly some super ink out there in the rugby world.

Saturday April 11: Long time nothing to say. Not quite that bad, but have just completed a month of exhausting and time consuming corporate largesse. We have been to Suncorp Corporate facilities, flash Brisbane restaurants and hotels, not without the odd phot opportunity, a Doomben race day, rugby matches, league matches, all far too much. Probably no doubt just put another X in my shirt size, which is not a good thing. It's been a great month, most enjoyable indeed, but haven't seen too much rugby on the TV while I have been swanning around at the expense of others. The biggest thing happening in rugby, and it was a tragedy, was the death of young Shawn Mackay, an awful event, and a man taken far too young. I just know though that this great rugby community, rugby family, will rally together and do all the right things for those affected adversely by this terrible happening. I have been very impressed this weekend to date with the absolute and total respect shown during moments of silence in remembrance of Shawn. Vale Shawn MacKay.

Rugby, well how do the Force lose. After a big week operationally leading into Easter, I went to bed at 27 to 13 thinking they could not lose, quite surprised to find they had this morning. The Reds, well, I can't see them even getting close in the very inhospitable Invercargill against a big, aggressive set of forwards. The Reds had come along way, and have now slipped as far back, and will have to re discover self belief again. It will be emotional in Canberra, let's hope the Brumbies go well. The Waratahs and the Bulls promises to be the most boring, uneventful match to date. Wingers should take pens out and spend time with the crowd, signing autographs while the match grinds to a halt every minute or so, wingers won't be required. I am 100% sure it will be impossible to be anything but asleep by the end of this encounter.

Of course we have everybody getting hot under the collar about school footy, which will start to ramp up pretty soon. The Blue and White team at Nudgee look clear favourites at this stage, but this is a cut throat competition and one loss can see hopes eroded rather dramatically. I am not sure about State High this year, but Terrace could shock a few, as may TSS. I am hearing whispers about TGS, but these guys need to learn how to win as much as anything, maybe this year, don't know. Ipswich also, usually there and thereabouts, not sure what their form will be in 2009. Churchie also

could provide some shocks for fancies sides, could be a good competition. Time will tell.

Monday 30/03/2009: OK, so Blair Connor had a shocker, you would have to think viewing the tape that he really didn't want to tackle big Lauaki and did all he could to run from the contact. Lots of points on offer down his flank. Sivivatu, two tries in 14 minutes, sad to see him injured, not bad to have him off the field. What I really wanted to say this early Monday morn though is, I cannot understand why more people don't go to matches that promise that, it never got really technical, it was fast, open and with plenty of ball movement (league followers generally say they like that) and there was alot of big contact, again usually liked by the league followers. Don't know, 21000 did not do justice to the match at all.

Sunday 29/03/2009: Sadly I was correct in tipping a smoking for the Reds yesterday, and I am sure there will be plenty of critics lining up to lampoon them, so they certainly don't need another armchair hack being critical. I will say it is very hard to reset a defence when you have a team like the Chiefs playing the game at the pace a team like the Chiefs is playing the game at. This tempo or pace also forces mistakes with hands, your mind is trying to play ahead and you forget about your hands, it's called pressure, and the Chiefs wound the spring up just through game tempo. The Reds had a crack themselves, and if they had scored in that early onslaught, it may have set the Chiefs back on their heels, they played some enterprising footy. Barnes was again special, some of the balls he played at the line were scintillating, he just has a special feel for the game and is Andrew Johns like in his ability to throw passes late into the defensive line. The other thing I could say about the Chiefs is, precious few complicated set plays, but gee they do the basics really well, and they do them at pace, coupled I suppose with size, pace and power.

Saturday 28/03/2009: Well I reckon the Waratahs continue to redefine boring, single dimensional play, with one of the most expensive backlines in the world of rugby. Match highlight was the try by Anthony Tuitivake, the footwork on Norton Knight, at pace, followed by the big fend on Robbie Horne and the sprint in to the line. Other than that, another deadset ordinary game. The Reds game tonight has all the promise of being one of the best games witnessed, but these games usually turn into rubbish, so I am expecting anything, anywhere across the spectrum when I visit Suncorp Stadium tonight. Again, I hope I am wrong, but I can't go past a white hot Chiefs outfit to smoke the Reds tonight at Suncorp. However it continues to be pointed out to me here at home by son 2 that the Reds have a far better forward pack than either the Chiefs or the Blues, and that will bring the Reds home. Unusual for a flyhalf to recognize the importance of jerseys 1 to 8 on a rugby field, been living with me for too long I guess. Last time I tipped the Reds to get smoked, and quite publicly, that beat the Sharks, so let's hope I am wrong, I know I am hoping that I am.

Wednesday 25/03/2009: I note lots of logins from school servers, just thought I would mention not to expect too much in 2009. I have plenty of other stuff on and may not turn up week in week out this year to school footy, not sure, yet to decide but generally I will just go with the mood I have, and at this stage I am looking to mix other things in to life as well.

Sunday 22/03/2009: *It's been a big week in footy for me personally, starting off being lucky enough to be invited to a corporate box at Suncorp on Friday night for the Storm vs Broncos match, and watching on the telly probably the best game of rugby we have seen for years, Chiefs vs Blues in New Zealand. Anyway, I need to start a new section, I keep promising this massive change and*

*never deliver, all too hard, so we will just add another wing. AS I have these well informed opinions that I wish to air constantly, I will call the new section, **"From My Seat of Knowledge"**. Been joking about that here for a week or so and my sons didn't think I would, **so here it is**. So much needs revamping on the site and I am just not smart enough to do it all. Anyway, **From My Seat of Knowledge is born**.*

Wednesday 18/03/2009: Only two more sleeps now to my corporate box event at Suncorp. Should be a great game of footy. I sure agree with big Hugh McMeniman, make sure that teams are nervous about their trip to Brisbane. This will come about from a ruthless and relentless approach to the way the game is approached and played, and by easing up on no one individual or team, and a brutal, take no prisoners style. There will be blood to be spilt, but it hasn't been labelled "The Red Badge of Courage" for nothing.

Tuesday 17/03/09: Just read Wayne Smith's little article on playing Berrick Barnes at halfback, because Stirling Mortlock might get selected at inside centre for the Wallabies. Don't these guys watch sides that Robbie Deans coaches? I don't think I have seen a Robbie Deans coached side that didn't have a second ball player at 12 and often a third ball player at 15. Wayne Smith must have been given a certain amount of space to fill, because he has written stuff that doesn't make too much sense. I reckon Berrick is just fine where he is, and the level of support and maturity he offers to Cooper on the inside and now a new outside centre in Digby Ioane surely means he must stay there. For mine the Wallaby backline at this stage would read 10. Giteau, 12. Barnes, 13. Horne/Cross, but I like Robbie Horne, a real long term option with a very special athletic gift. I have not been a big fan of Mortlock for many years. However, Deans will select the side he wants, and he has won a title here and there. I am yet to hear anyone speak in anything but glowing terms about Robbie's outlook, philosophy and methodology. I will almost guarantee he selects ball players at 10 and 12 though!

Monday 16/03/2009: Just watched the Reds game on the big screen, and while being far from my favourite referee, James Leckie was a one man comedy show. Coupled with Greg Martin on one particular incident, anyone listening would have been reduced to tears. The incident in question of course, was Genia's dumping of Keegan Daniels, allegedly on his head. The assistant referee, looking decidedly like he was asleep, said he didn't get a number, but if he did have a number he would have a yellow card. Leckie calls out captain Barnes, who does the serious and concerned look very well. Leckie addresses the captain and tells him of the incident, and that he has not identified who it was. He says to Barnes, "now you go and sort out who it was, and give them a good talking to". Works for me. Same incident, Greg Martin pinned it on Blair Connor. When I had a second look, I noted Connor and Genia to be remarkably similar, easy to mix up. When Rory Cockett kicked long and the pill went dead, Leckie could be heard like a parent asking a little child, "Would you like a scrum", in fact an old stager like Matt Ryan or Rod McCall may well have suggested ice cream. And finally from the comedy file, John Smit, as the hooker approaching a lineout slowly, rubbing his eyes, and saying he couldn't see, was told by Leckie, "Fine, get on with it". Hugh McMeniman's game is even better in replay, but it looks like on the lineout calls he has just said, just throw it to me when you are ready. Not many went anywhere else but Hugh, simple but effective it seems. And to finish off with, Mclinden's sin binning was soft; it looked like he did everything in his power to not touch the ball when falling over. We really do have to maintain some semblance of reality in the game, I doubt many of the

current grouping of refs have played much rugby.

Sunday 15/03/2009: A good night for Reds fans with the Queensland franchise never really even giving the previously undefeated Sharks a sniff. Personally, if someone asked, I would have tipped the Reds to be smoked by 60 against the Sharks, and some people did ask, so that would give them a chuckle I am sure. However it is good to be proven wrong in this particular case, especially with the Reds playing some good footy to watch as well.

The day started early for me, I had to get into the city and meet a guy with the company tickets; he had attended the massive Broncos vs Cowboys rugby league clash the night before. Never knowing just what is going on on the city road wise, I parked out near Suncorp and hoofed it in, at about 6 in the morning. There really are some weird sights early in the morning. People just going home in their good clothes, at 6am, passed one guy walking, or marching along saying Hut, hut, hut, another two in full battle fatigues. Makes you wonder! The smell of vomit was everywhere, particularly down in the city, potentially disgusting yet invigorating. People really should learn to hold their stomach contents alot better than that. One particular strung out offering near Suncorp showed an entire totally undigested menu over 20 or so metres. What a waste of money. To be honest, the whole trip into the city was quite a disgusting view, just rubbish and trash everywhere, certainly no showpiece.

The day continued at Ballymore, where we had a coaching get together, and Phil Mooney, Damon Emtage, Mark Bell and Ben Whitaker ran various parts of the day. It is pretty special that these guys come along and do this on the day of a massive match in their season, and do it without a hint of stress or nerves. In fact you could have been forgiven for thinking that they had anything really important on at all later that day. However, that part of the day was pretty good, and for people with reasonable levels of stupidity like me, a couple of things that were pointed out by the coaches became obvious in what the Reds were doing later that evening. The disturbing revelation during the day was that James Leckie, my refereeing nightmare had the game.

Headed back into the city after the event for a spot of lunch; boy, troubled to see the recession here, city was crawling with people, could hardly move in the mall. People out and about everywhere spending their hard earned. It is great to be totally anonymous in amongst big crowds, I revel in that feeling, not knowing a soul and observing then as they singlemindedly go about whatever it is they are going about. Anyway plenty of cash being left behind in Brisvegas on this particular Saturday afternoon.

Alot less crowded down on the Eagle Street Wharf, and it made for a delightful (clean) riverside walk, and a few photos, before heading back towards Suncorp Stadium for the evening's entertainment, and what an evening it was.

Finally we get to the rugby, and if you want to read my thoughts on rugby theses days, then you have to read the other rubbish that goes with it, because I am not going to be writing too much on rugby, too many high level folks read it for a bit of a laugh, so I won't be giving them that opportunity. So there are plenty of reports out there in the press, and I have read most of them this morning, no need either for

me to re hash the stuff.

The Reds certainly did play well, with Hugh McMeniman ripping right in, would love to see his stats, particularly on ball carries and metres gained, he was massive. I see Jim Tucker in the Sunday Mail has spoken of Quade Cooper and the Reds running a loop move, personally not sure if you run loop moves any more, my thought during the first half was that Cooper's support game was really developing well and allowing him to hit other runners in the second and third wave, but I am no one to be questioning the great wisdom of Jim Tucker!

It was good to see Ezra Taylor debut and smoke a couple of Sharks in big hits. Houston, Barnes, Byrnes and Higginbotham were all great. The Reds pack is starting to have the look of a nasty, dominant edge, it just needs to keep developing that ruthless, take no prisoners, murder everything in your path attitude. Horwell's return after the bye stiffens it up even more. I guess the Reds just need to keep winning and developing the winning attitude and formula. A couple of losses now will see the Sharks result quickly fade and be recorded as an emotional blip on the horizon.

Friday night the 20th of March, I am back at Suncorp, in a corporate box, with some heavy hitters of the world. How I got invited to this occasion I will never know, but anyway I will soak it up. I believe our host is an ex NSW (rugby) player, maybe even a Wallaby, a very dedicated Waratahs supporter, who has a son in the Waratah academy. All unconfirmed as yet with some research to be done on the matter. Of course the footy shouldn't be too bad either with the Broncos up against the Storm, and then a night in the big city. Look out world!

Saturday 07/03/2009: Another game, another loss to the Reds. I doubt they can finish in the top echelon of the competition now. The Sharks coming up this weekend will certainly be another very hard game for the Reds to win. Both sides last night really needed to learn how to hold the football, as Roy and HG would say, "When someone passes you the ball, try and catch it, if you manage to catch it, try and hang onto it". Some very innocuous drops of the ball last night turned the game into a very frustrating one to watch. A lot of talk before hand and zero fire and brimstone, coupled with pedantic refereeing turned the game into a very flat and unentertaining affair, nearly needed no doze to get through it. A shame because I thought Bryce Lawrence was by far the best referee last week, actually letting some things go, like collapsed scrums where the ball was making it's way back, but he must have got his fingers chopped during the week for that, because it was no more, except the one where Greg Holmes got destroyed, and was sitting on his backside with McMeniman in front of him sitting on his lap. Personally thought the Chiefs Sharks clash last week remains the best game of the competition to date, and the best refereed. The rest have been pretty ordinary, mistake riddled, stop start affairs, with this rather stupid half arm for everything taking the game to a new and lower level, I believe. No doubt there were some potentially mouth watering clashes across the park, with the loane-Tuqiri one billed as the biggie. This type of game rarely has anything to do with anyone past 10, they just make up number, so of much more interest was the battle of the forwards. Holmes was outpointed, no outgunned by the man we all love to hate, but he has delivered every game this year, Al Baxter. Robinson won his side of the scrum battle, and while Houston was adequate, Palu was always a big task for him. The Reds lineout was smashed. Book Robinson and Baxter props berths,

Moore the hooker spot. Mcmeniman was good last night, as was Higginbottom, except for that terrible drop, and van Humphries has probably been the Reds best in the last few games, doing the simple things very well. Aussie locks, who knows, Caldwell has played some tough footy, and deserves a look, as does Mumm and Mcmeniman, throw in Horwell and Sharp, maybe Chisholm and there is a bit to choose from. Beale and Cooper, both delivered games they won't rate in their top 10's as they grow in experience and stature, they will both take plenty from the game. Robbie Horne was special, and will be bolter in the Wallaby Squad, maybe side in 2009. Plenty of talk about our next long term 13, this is the guy if the code can keep him. The Force were terrible and must be ruining their inability to tackle, another ordinary game ruined even further by one of the referees that really annoys me and has done for many years, Matt Goddard. "Are you going to crouch before I call it" he could be heard over the mike, admonishing the Chiefs Front Row early in the game. Boys and girls, just let the big boys scrum, cut down the resets, and get on with the game. Stop blowing stupid half arms at every ruck, and let the big boys play a little more, but the game is a mess at the moment. One little thing, and this will get pushed up when the Reds were about to score a match winning try, and it is a stupid law anyway, but one that the pedantic refs and their overseeing body will pull up one day soon, when you take a free kick, the ball must leave the hands. Not many of the Reds did last night. Hopefully some rugby this afternoon actually gets a bit more physical and a bit more exciting than my new favourite hobby of watching cardboard fade, been more exciting than the rugby to date!

Saturday 28/02/2009: Time to bag the officials. The rugby has been terrible, patchy at best, but last night Stuart Dickinson and in particular James Leckie took the honours for a severe lack of knowledge of the game and it's mechanics. Leckie in particular was a disgrace, but Dickinson too had a very big influence on the outcome of the Crusaders match with a number of wrong decisions. Both sin binnings I thought on first view were wrong, and I am not going to sit through that again and both referees seem to have a clear misunderstanding of what the tackler can do with regards getting to his feet and taking the ball, coupled with when the structure becomes a ruck. Leckie's knowledge of scrums and lineouts is just a hint above zero and I bet he played fullback or something like that. ELV's are supposed to speed the game up; Leckie's pedanticism in continuing to bring the tap kick back to be taken exactly on the mark, slowed the game down and turned it into a farce. My personal comment on ELV's; the game is fast becoming ruined, it is a stop start ugly mess without structure, with more kicking, and the breakdown area is more of a blight on the game than ever it was before.

Sunday 22/02/2009: I note that Fast Eddie (Eddie Jones) and Andy Slack, our former leader of the Wallabies are both telling us that the rugby in Super 14 has been of a high quality so far in 2009. They must be watching re runs of a former year, surely. I have pretty much only seen games that have turned into over refereed absolute rubbish after about 10 minutes. All those fast guys in New Zealand, Smith, Sivivatu, Masaga, are catching/holding about 1 in 5. Now if pace, coupled with poor handling skills wins them a Super 14, then they have got it right. Same with a few of the South Africans. Watching the Brumbies last night would have been the most frustrating of all, it seems they didn't want to hold the ball for too long. I like the big guy they brought on in the second row late, he caught the ball, carried it forward and kept the ball the four occasions he carried, and he is a giant. Most of the rest, except for the Crusaders defence, was rubbish. Ah those Reds, now already in an unenviable position after only round two. They need to beat the Cheetahs on a Sunday afternoon and back up and beat the Waratahs in Sydney on Friday night, tough ask, talk to the rugby league guys about Sunday

to Friday turnarounds, very punishing. Ah the Warathas, how good was their scrum, or how bad was the Chiefs, with the Chiefs scrum getting mauled by none other than Al Baxter, except for the one scrum that Al decided to jump in. I thought Tuqiri's level of involvement was demonstrative of a high enthusiasm level, I would like to see his stats. Kurtley seemed to be a bit off week one, where as Cooper stepped up for most of the game against the Stormers, but had a mental sleep for 10 minutes. Cooper needs to take fighting out of his repertoire, he doesn't look very dangerous, and fighting a big guy above him from a position on the ground will only lead to some part of your facial anatomy being smashed, as the ground doesn't give too much when your head gets smashed back into it. Phil Waugh, what a man. I very much enjoyed the blood, and the continual taping of the wound, the good doctor Sharon Flahiv still attending to the Waratahs. During the interviews it is easy to see ha has had that nose far too close to too many knees, elbows and boots. No wonder his mate in Perth told me that he had a head like a dropped pie when we were having a chat. Qld definitely needs to get the Bus back, and we note the stance of the Bus everywhere, at almost every game, he is a cult leader. Bring back the Bus. The Force, well that was pretty boring. After round two, I think only one Aussie side looks the goods, NSW, they won an ugly game, and you have to win ugly at times. The Bulls, the Stormers and the Sharks look the goods from the republic and really the Crusaders look the best of a disappointing New Zealand grouping. Outside chances will be the Chiefs, Hurricanes, maybe Blues and maybe the Reds, but gee teams that have already lost two cannot afford to lose too many more. On lineouts too, how many pies were thrown over the weekend? I think the worst week of lineout throwing in the history of Super Rugby. [Robbie Horne](#), still looks like a nice composed youngster in a very frustrating match. This guy will be seeing 100 plus percentage points increases in his paypacket. I heard he was on 30 grand plus match payments last year, I reckon 200 grand plus match payments this year and probably double it again next year. If I am anywhere near close to the mark, that's alot of money to be earning before you are 21. If he needs any assistance negotiating his package, I am sure he knows where I am. I also note that Rob Horne has overtaken Aidan Toua as one of the major search terms on this site. Let's hope that week 3 is a far more skilful affair than weeks one and two.

Matt Giteau's decision is an interesting one. Whatever is said, I am sure the reason is about filthy lucre more than wanting to go home, when you are on 40 or 50 grand a week you can go home every week. I would just love to know where it is coming from in Canberra though, with economic powerhouses being in Sydney and Pert, even in these current times.

Tuesday 17/02/2009: Fresh off a big Sunday at Ballymore with all the Junior Reds Squads from around the state. Have a thought for the boys from the north and the distance they put in for the day, an awesome effort indeed from our flood ravage north. The boys played some rugby against each other in Under 15 and Under 17 age groups, and there were some willing exchanges and some skilful individuals on display. With the Country Under 17's myself, it was good to see the older boys get a run, and also good to have guys like James Gough involved, he is a dynamo and a natural leader. Also big Adrian Lambert must have been itching for a run and he anchored the country scrum at tighthead. The physicality of our first clash against Country 3 (numbers mean nothing) was huge with Ryan O'Connell taking a massive shot early, followed by another one off the same play in the next game that ended his afternoon. The third game against Bris 1 showed us just where we need to be, and showed those guys vying for country Under 17's later in the year just what they will be up against.

These guys were relentless and ruthless at the breakdown, they pounced on mistakes, and they instantly knew where space was and got the footy to it against a very tired country outfit, and deservedly gave us a tremendous touch up. A good lesson for us all on where the level is and will be going forwards. I heard the Country 1 Under 15's also performed pretty well. There are some big lads in the Brisbane Under 15 outfits.

I see Rodney So'oailo got suspended for a week for giving Phil Waugh, aka the Pieface, a touch up around the melon with his boot. Thought it was John Schwalger that got him myself and did not think it warranted a suspension. Certainly did not look intentional, and there are times amongst those things you don't know where your feet are landing.

I note this morning in the press that the QRU have signed Will Chambers from the Melbourne Storm, a big strapping outside back that looks like he can run pretty fast. Has played first grade in the NRL and has played rugby in his schoolboy days. Must be from next year, and not just too sure where all these outside backs fit, but I am sure the guys have a plan there on how that all works.

Sunday 15/02/2009: Week one of Super Rugby done and gone already. Player of the round looked to be Rob Horne for mine, watch him, he is a young bloke going places. Waratahs look to be the Aussie province with the best chance in 2009, and the Reds showed some steel for a period; they look much more composed than in previous years. Scrums have been a disgrace, and the New Zealand sides largely disappointing. Marius Jonkers, the guy that reffed the Reds vs Bulls game, had an absolute shocker. Sin binning for cleaning out, thought we were supposed to do that, penalty for an over the shoulder grab, maybe at Under 12 level; no wonder the league guys think this game is soft, and some of his calls both ways at the tackle contest were disgraceful. On to week two, let's hope the rugby becomes a little more inspiring as the competition moves forwards. The Reds need The Bus back in that side, and we continue with our Bus Supporters campaign. We like his mobile phone answering style, and his laid back attitude to life and rugby. We would also like to see Rob Simmons scar up, a very nice looking young man for sure, but he needs to get some ugliness about him or move into the backs.

Saturday 31/01/2009, [got some photos up here now](#), at long last.

Thursday 29/01/2009. Finally finished my view of last Saturday, and you can find it [here](#). Only the photos to go now, hopefully by the weekend.

For all those good folks checking in for my thoughts on Saturday's (24/01/2009) games, I am still writing, in fact didn't like draft one and need to re write, which puts the photos back another day or two, so be patient, this is far from a professional organization here!

Saturday 24/09/2009, almost Sunday 25/01/2009: Boy was it hot today. Terrible, and we played footy in it. Then the powers that be finished the day off about 8:30pm with a heavy storm and most spectacular lightshow, absolute cracker. As for the games, the Downs sides didn't fair too well, with the Under 14's putting up a brave fight early, and even lead a powerful Easts side at one stage, before seeing Easts run away to the tune of about 24 or 32 to 10, somewhere there. The Downs Under 19's played in the wickedest heat of the day, and put up a sterling performance. Mitch Logan and Sean McLellan, footballers I have always rated, were the glue that held the side together. Mitch Logan has to be a shoe in for Country Under 19's in 2009, has to be. Very smart competent footballer. Our game,

the Under 16 development match against the Gold Coast side was won by the Gold Coast outfit. No question the better side won the match, have no complaints or disagreements with the whole day. I thought it was well refereed, one of Andrew Coorey's better games I thought. The Coast got the game by 20 to 12, after actually leading 20 to nil from 4 tries. I will write lots more on this game and how I saw it over the next few days, also have a few photos, although photos were difficult, as my man on the camera was confined to the pen we all had. Again though, no complaints, a big day, we weren't the allotted photographer, and you take what you can get at days like this and have to follow protocol, otherwise the whole thing gets messy. The Waratahs got over the Reds by 17 to 7 or so, but I reckon the Reds have a lot of firepower to come yet, either back from injury or just being rested. I think they are looking OK. Some of these young guys look good though, Aidan Toua, Jake Schatz at 18 already is an imposing presence, as is Luke Morahan. The best of all from that group of schoolboys though has to be Rob Horne. I still rate him up there with some of the best I have seen, his biceps and triceps are incredibly developed, and he has feet on a par with Aidan Toua. If you are yet to see the Aidan Toua feet, get along to matches he plays. Most coaches still struggle with Aidan's feet. Will certainly be some more over the next few days, just be patient, I am old, tired and lack motivation.

Saturday 24/01/2009, the day the Reds and the Waratahs come to Toowoomba town to face off in a trial match, kick off 7pm. Before all that however there is a heap of work going on, field set ups, coaching clinics, coach seminars, drug testing, you think about it, it's going on. There are of course 3 curtain raiser matches, just like the Good Old Days at Ballymore before Qld played NSW. Usually I am happy for the good old days to be gone, but they were indeed good days at the Queensland home of rugby. Kicking off at 2:30 is the first curtain raiser, between Darling Downs Under 14 and Easts Under 14. Easts Under 14 is coached by a guy named Shaun Hourigan, got to know him a little bit all those years ago when Dalby and Uni and other Downs sides used to play Brisbane sides early in the season. A tough as teak number 7 that may have played for Qld at some stage but was certainly up there with the best of the era. Shaun married a Downs lady, I think from Goondiwindi if my memory serves me correctly. Good man, good footy player and still giving back to his beloved Tigers. At 3:45 Darling Downs Under 19 play one of the Sunnybank Under 19 sides. The Downs side should feature guys like Mitch Logan and Craig McVeigh, amongst others. Haven't had too much to do with the 19's over the last couple of years. Sunnybank have 4 Under 19 or Colts sides so it will be interesting to see who comes up. 5:20pm sees the match between the Junior Reds sides from the Gold Coast and the Darling Downs. We (Darling Downs) are short in Props and locks, so are very thankful to three Brisbane guys for coming up to help us out in those areas. I am sure the Gold Coast will be as tough as teak and I have heard much about their 10, 12, 13 and one winger. I have only seen the 13, Nick Oui, and he is a gun, will certainly take some shutting down, if in fact that can be done. Personally looking forward to the game, and from a Downs perspective to see Joey Frey from Goondiwindi State High School and Matt Berwick, from St Mary's College in Dalby make their marks on the match. Matt's Dad Rod is a former Australian Under 17, when that concept was alive, and did that out of Downlands. Rod, originally from Bell, and a well know Bell farming family, was a highly regarded centre or winger, (think he may have played Qld Country as well, and forged a bit of a name in league too locally) again from memory. Matt certainly has the same or probably better abilities, and along with Joey Frey plays league at quite a high level. Don't know much about the Coast side at all, except one of the coaches is the current premier grade hooker for the Breakers. I am sure that means they will

be an excellent side, being coached by someone that wears the very hallowed, thinking man's jersey. Given the limited preparation of both sides, I hope it doesn't turn into a scrappy game and that the gods shine on us and we can all see some of the talent available in both sides.

Friday 09/01/2009: Plenty of emails in on GPS rugby 2009, I'm still struggling with the level of importance it plays out for some people. To answer a few incorrect assumptions in one place, BSHS will not be with the services of Eddie Quirk in 2009. I believe he is with the Reds Academy, not BSHS. That information came to light in about November of 2008, may have changed, I don't live and breathe GPS rugby, nor live for GPS rugby, but I am not sure why you would give up an academy contract to go back to school.

I note Ticketek started selling tickets for the Gold Park Reds vs NSW trial match yesterday. After the players and coaching staffs get in, there might be 27 tickets left for sale, so rush out and grab them. I hope the Gold Park playing surface will be up to scratch, last time we trained there it was very patchy, a lot of unevenness in the grass surface, an ankle nightmare. What a potential rugby festival though, the possibility of guys like Kurtley Beale, Quade Cooper, Robert Horne and Aidan Touna, Digby Ioane, amongst many others, having a trundle about in the backwater of Toowoomba.

Comment of 2009 to date comes from Anthony Mundine. Love him or hate him, and I would be sure there would be spin doctors involved, in advertising on Pay TV for his upcoming fight against Shannan Taylor, Mundine's line is simple, and typically arrogant, but I like it: "whoever I fight, I'll be favourite". Go Anthony!

*Monday 05/01/2009: I keep thinking about writing about this guy I kept running into at school functions, a bloke more into cricket than rugby, but a guy that has left an indelible mark on my memory, since about 1981. I have to keep thinking that no one really wants to read about stuff that went on way back, now almost 30 years ago, but I guess if they don't, they won't read it, so I'll write it anyway. **Here for a bit of a read up on history in Downs Rugby.***

Sunday 04/01/2009: Welcome to 2009. Had a short stint over the break at Noosaville, an obviously popular little area on the Noosa River. I say welcome, as I still struggle with what makes 31 December morphing into 1 January any more special than 31 May morphing into 1 June. Too realistic maybe? The sun goes up and the sun goes down, and due to the commercialism placed on certain dates, some folks make a lot of money out of it. Sitting in the passenger seat on the drive up (still unable to drive after surgery, on docs orders), the man on the news told me that there had been no serious road accidents in Queensland for 4 days. Observing the traffic I am able to report, that it wasn't through any level of skill, patience or application. The amount of idiots on the roads that show no ability behind the wheel of a very nasty weapon continues to grow, and astounds me. To be honest, I am surprised the Road Toll is as low as it is. Which brings me to my point. In sport, we spend and devote countless hours to developing the skill levels, hopefully basic skill levels of everyone involved in the game. There are countless people and dollars devoted to skill development in sport. Why is the same outlook not evident in road skills, pretty easy to get a licence. There are plenty of issues with just how "driving instructors" teach as well, in fact they are just wrong in a number of cases. I have shaken my head on a number of occasions at what is being taught, but guess what, the same idiocy is being tested, so it is a waste of time in the "learning"/"testing" phase to try and change the mindsets and skillsets of young drivers, because they will just be failed. So as

I see it, the system of education is delivering drivers with not only poor skills, but incorrect skills, straight on to the roads. Don't worry, there are plenty of "experienced drivers that either don't know, or are just plain arrogant in the belief that they own the roads. Lack of judgement of distance for one is just so poor, and a lack of understanding or ability to mentally compute that a car coming at you at 100kms per hour will deplete the distance between you rather more quickly than some seem to think. Nothing rugby I know, but it is a deadly serious place out there, and you do not get a second chance.

As for 15man in 2009, who knows, I know I don't. I think I continue to become less motivated. I know I have said I should tidy the job up, and each time I sit down and look at doing that, the whole thing seems quite monumental in reality, my old brain goes fuzzy, and I decide that it is all too hard. Certainly in the last two days, there has been some interesting search terms hitting the site though. "Auckland Under 16 rugby trials 2009", "Bernies castle", "brumbies rugby drills", "drew nudgee", "john bishop ipswich", "junior reds 3 day camp pictures match merit team under 15 ballymore", "nts under 15 squad 1st 15 rugby union queensland held at ballymore". There was another about holiday rugby courses in New Zealand, so some different search terms hitting on the site over the last two days. Someone, I think in England judging by the address, stumbled on the site on New Year's Day and hung around and viewed 600 pages (I didn't know there were that many there), he/she must have been really bored. Aidan Toua however still remains in the top three search terms hitting the site, the young guy could become a household name in 2009. I am sure he will play Super 14 this year in any case.

GPS rugby, well who knows. The competition looks like it will be tight. There are brave souls out there already tipping a TSS win, but traditional heavyweights Nudgee and State High look to have some pretty good personnel floating around. TGS even looks to have some excellent playing stock in 2009, if they can just overcome their mental outlook of expecting to lose, and playing people in the right position for their skillset and for particular matches. Churchie looks to be a real prospect, with some good young guys in that Met East Under 15 side, Nick Malouf being one name I remember that will make a big impact in 2009. Terrace could beat anyone on their day, with young Lucas and Liam Gill among others stepping into year two of First XV rugby. Other names to watch for in 2009, Curtis Browning at State High, Chris Sautia at State High, I hear really good things about a young bloke at Nudgee by the name of Billy Brittain, he won't play First XV in 2009, but is highly regarded amongst judges and pundits as the next big thing to wear a 10 jersey. I am not in any loops regarding BBC, IGS or BGS. There have been some coaching changes at IGS and BGS and time will judge how that pans out. Whatever happens, the last game of the season, BSHS vs Nudgee, at Fursden Road, looks like being an absolute cracker, and maybe the playoff for 1 and two, but a couple of losses could also see both sides finishing mid field. It's a real tough gig for coaches, you really have to look at being undefeated across the entire 8 games to win this thing, and yes, as mentioned before, some take it way too seriously.

Tuesday 30/12/2008: A couple of things on the rugby calendar, A Vintage Reds dinner at the Cathedral centre on Friday night 23/10/2008, followed of course by the Qld Reds playing NSW on 24/01/2009, at Gold Park (strange venue for mine, capacity about 2500 with the new Telstra mobile phone tower embedded in a spectator area), and the Downs Junior Reds squad playing the Gold

Coast Junior Reds squad as I think, the main curtain raiser. No question we are going to struggle, with limited preparation and a shortage in the front row and locking department, and a backline question or two. I hear the Coast will have a white hot backline, spearheaded by Nick Oui, who I thought went OK at the Under 15 schoolboys up at Noosa and recently named at Inside Centre for the Queensland Under 15 merit side. The coast side will certainly start as favourites, the only thing counting against them will be travel. We could wish really hard for cold, rain and sleet, but in January we are only likely to get lightning, hail and wind!

Monday 29/12/2008: A quite fascinating year in sport. We are currently witnessing the demise of Australian cricket from it's lofty position for so long, and all the posturing and emotion that goes with it. Yesterday was a prime example, with the Africans at 7 for at the start of play and batting almost all day. Someone once said, a commentator, that Warne took most of his wickets at the tail, sadly missed yesterday was that ability to clean up the end quickly and efficiently. The rugby codes have seen plenty of turmoil, Sonny Bill Williams, who doesn't appear to be going anywhere quickly in the 15 man code, a kiwi becoming Aussie coach, Wayne Bennett an Aussie coaching the kiwis to World Cup victory in the rugby league. More young men with lots and lots of money, and lots and lots of time behaving badly, the last of which was young baby faced James O'Connor, arrested on the Gold Coast a week or so ago. This follows other seemingly, and allegedly very ugly incidents over the year. I say seemingly and allegedly, because what you see in the newspaper and what you see on television is not necessarily the bona fide truth, and is presented to sell papers and get you to watch that channel. Coaching and playing sport in the professional era has become and will continue to be a ruthless, friendless, cut throat business, with words like loyalty a thing of the past, and words like "brand" and "sponsor responsibilities" and "entertainment" at the fore. Loyalty will be to the dollar, and will be to the detriment of the individuals involved. There will be plenty more controversy and turmoil in 2009, as young, fit men with heaps of money, heaps of time can't do anything but find themselves compromised.

As the new year rolls out, school footy, something that is taken far too seriously by far too many will start to gather momentum in people's thoughts and people's minds. For some, and in particular many adults, be they fathers, mothers, spectators or coaches, school footy takes on a far greater meaning and importance than it really holds in society, and the real world in general. No one should hold 8 or 9 games of footy in a year as anything more than it is, 8 or 9 games of footy in a year. Anyone that tells you any different is fooling him or herself, and trying to fool you.

Plenty of highlights in year 2008 here, the key one being daughter followed number 2 son as dux of the school, and she did it as a 16 year old, having skipped grade 5. This makes us no longer parents of school aged children, and maybe now able to make some changes in life, on reflection, that enhance the quality of life, reduce stress and get out and smell the roses so to speak. Surgery and a little time off certainly give time for these reflections, and just what is important. Sporting highlights, there would be a few, but I will give them some thought, and maybe put them up later.

Thursday 25/12/2008, Christmas Day of this quickly passed year. Hi all and seasons greetings and best wishes to you all. Thanks very much for your patronage, and at times, comments. I'm not really a festive season freak, in fact the industries I have worked in over the last 20 years, Public Holidays are a great hindrance, and I find it an excessive over commercialized sort. I also find it a time when

we kill ourselves with the gayest of abandons on the roads and highways, and therein lies my greatest fear, the number of people that end up dead on the roads. So take care when you step into the dangerous weapon in your driveway. Been an interesting year here at 15man. Two lots of surgery, just recovering from the second slicing now. Even stranger this occasion to be cut by a very good mate of mine, but no doubt the best and most compassionate surgeon in this region. He has done a fine job. I have come to hate two words this year, "financial crisis". What has happened was made through human greed and what I call reckless spending. A lot of us now see "buying opportunity" on a sharemarket front and a real estate front. Rugby wise, I have been a bit quieter in 2008 than I was in 2007, and a few folks have passed the jibe that the site was not as good in 2008 as it was in 2007. The beauty of it being a pure hobby I guess, I have no need for any number of readers to "make a return", I do what I want when I want, so yes, when I am not motivated, it is a bit hit and miss. However, it is still a bit of fun, and an outlet, and I continue to meet some fantastic people from all codes and all walks of life, and that is a great thing. So be sure and enjoy whatever it is you do over the festive season, whatever your beliefs are, but be safe and considerate in what you do.

Tuesday December 09, 2008. Meant to mention yesterday, a week or so ago I was in Brisbane at rugby headquarters. The Reds guys were all there and I notice one rather large lad, who I didn't know, and of course asked who he was. Was told Ezra Taylor. Boys and girls, let me inform you he is one very angry looking individual, and quite large, and with what seems mandatory for rugby and rugby league players these days, some good ink. I think ink is the terminology in any case. Big Ezra looks like he would bite the heads off chickens without any worries at all. Hopefully he will be ripping them off opposition players come February!

Monday December 8 2008. Fresh off the first Junior Reds camp in the Darling Downs region. The weather wasn't kind to us, but the QRU and ARU was with plenty of coaching heavyweights joining us for the weekend, which makes for a great learning ground for we two guys up here as well. I would be sure that the boys all went away with a bunch of acquired knowledge and improved skills, coupled with some severe sunburn. [More here, with some pics eventually.](#) OK, got a few pics up, [you can access them here.](#) Also fixed a typo or two in the original writeup, so all you 15man junkies can go and read it again.

Tuesday November 25, 2008. Plenty going on. The Aussie scrum was a disgrace against France. I can only assume the English scrum was just bad. Someone should tell AL Baxter not to turn around in scrums, and Steven Moore's place in scrums is actually in them, not standing beside them when the heat is applied. It seems Baxter has read the English press headlines of "Bax-ter the wall" and thought that turning around might be a better option. Another rip roaring deadset boring game of football, helped along by pedantic refereeing. Giteau, like Benji Marshall, is at his best when he plays straight and direct, as was witnessed by Peter Hynes' try. Not sure what is going on with the Aussie Lineout, but there are not too many creative attacking options happening from them at the moment.

The Australian rugby league team, the Kangaroos, become the second best rugby league team in the world, for the next 5 years. Ricky Stuart needs to calm down, become a humble loser, and realise that his team lost, and that he is the coach of the second best rugby league team in the world, he is

the first coach of an Aussie rugby league team to lose the world cup, and history will remember him for that. The Aussie boys were just not good enough on the night, the two wingers had absolute shockers, and while it doesn't seem to matter much on paper, teams that take only two front row forwards into a match, inevitably lose them.

Deeply disappointing, more so than any football match, was the cancelling of the Angels concert in Toowoomba on Sunday night. Doc Neeson and the boys were returning after 20 odd years. I have probably seen these guys a dozen times here in Toowoomba during the 80's, in fact they were part of our "rugby culture" of the time. I asked my sons if they wanted to attend with me, and was told it would just be a room full of old men. Nice! Looking around the crowd, they were probably right. Imagine the disappointment then when just before the start, we were told that one of the band members was gravely ill and in hospital and we would be getting a refund. Shattering news. I had prepared well, with a Nanna nap during the day so I could stay up late, plenty of coffee in the afternoon to create a buzz, and then major let down. Oh well, we are all old men now I guess!!

Tuesday November 18 2008: Heard the Wallaby scrum smashed England, and beat them up badly. Didn't watch it live and haven't seen it at all, but I guess the question then needs to be asked of consistency. One convincing, destructive performance needs to lead to another, and so on and so forth. Now we wait and see if they can beat up the French with similar ease.

Friday 14 Nov 2008: Incredulously we read that the Aussie scrum is getting better, that it dominated Italy last week, and from one of the commentators in that test match, that Matt Dunning was one of the best, that's right, one of the best, tight heads in the world. A lot of you weren't born when we last had a really good tight head. Folks will throw up Blades, but I think the Aussie scrum was heading backwards then too. Andy McIntyre would be the one I would toss in, maybe Ewen McKenzie who replaced McIntyre. Don't be mistaken, the Aussie scrum got dished up really badly against the Italians, and wheelchairs are possible this weekend against the English pack that contains Andy Sheridan and Phil Vickery. Best and tight head should never be mentioned in the same sentence as Matt Dunning and Al Baxter, and it is a disgrace that Baxter is Australia's most capped tighthead, because our system has not developed anything else. the Australian scrum has been getting whipped for years, and all we do about it is come up with ways of cheating to get around the situation, clever thinking yes, but setting a good strong first phase platform, no! Big Al Baxter will really have to Grimace hard and stick his chest right out this weekend as he faces the scrummaging fury of Andy Sheridan.

Good news through yesterday from Qld Rugby headquarters. Our little Junior Reds training group here on the Downs will get to play the Gold Coast Junior Reds Squad as a Curtain Raiser to the Reds Trial match on January 24 2009. I think ex Downs man, big Garrick Morgan heads up the Gold coast coaching staff, and recently coached or co coached the Qld Red Under 16 side, also coaches the Gold Coast Premier Rugby side. It just raises the stakes a little bit, but the boys do always want to play, and this will be a great opportunity to test their mettle against some extra good players from the Coast. I hear their squad is little short of exceptional.

Sunday 26/10/2008: For those still with an interest, the rest of the photos from the Country 10's carnival in Dalby are [up here now](#). Probably best to grab a coffee, there are a few there.

The Junior Reds programme kicks off this week, Wednesday in fact, and again I think there have been significant improvements to the programme. Initial players and an explanation of the programme [can be found here](#):

Tuesday 21/10/2008. Not much rugby left to play now in season 2008, in Aus anyway, I believe there is still a schoolboy competition or two happening out there, but locally, and by locally I mean the vast expanse of the environs of the Darling Downs, our thoughts turn to the Junior Reds programme, which will be shorter and sharper in 2008/2009, and comprise two camps, that will allow us access to those from further away, with a few games at the February camp. Letters in the main have gone out, and we plan on getting underway next week, so looking forward to that.

What a fantastic day in Dalby, for the country schools rugby carnival. Some exceptional rugby played, some very good performances from some really good athletes, one in particular, Matt Berwick served big notice to anyone playing in a 12 or 13 jersey and thinking of Qld Under 16 next year, that if he wants to trial, the others will have to be very, very good. There were plenty of Qld Rugby people on hand to witness his very polished display across the whole day. Good enough to walk into any first XV next year with ease. Better still, how does Joey Frey and Matt Berwick as Downs Opens Schoolboys centres sound. Again I am thinking that as 16 year olds they would probably dominate all comers. With Downlands allegedly to supply zero players to the Open Schoolboys tilt in 2009, due to a clash with Grammar Day, there are phenomenal opportunities for those outside the system to step up and have a crack at rep rugby. We saw plenty of good, tough stuff on our journey to Goondi and Dalby in recent days. Lots of photos to go up as we road test the brand new Canon EOS 50D digital for the first time, so stay tuned. Dalby State High School got the money over Goondiwindi State High School in the Under 13's by I think 20 to 17 with a last minute try. This was an entertaining game of footy. St Mary's won the Under 15's, again over Goondiwindi State High School, well it used to be St Marys, now Our Lady Southern Cross College, and Dalby State High School won the Opens, over St Mary's, or OLSCC. [The day here](#):

Thursday 16/10/2008: The final afternoon of the Qld Rugby travelling roadshow (in South Qld at least) moved into Dalby yesterday. The contacts in Dalby did a great job, with alot of people in attendance, and definitely not enough coaches to go around in a full on afternoon. It was excellent to see so many turn up with an interest, and plenty that have never played the game, turning up to have a look. It will be good to see these guys actually go around on Sunday in the "non traditional rugby schools" tournament hosted for the second year by Dalby. I have heard there is another Michael Bermingham heading down from the South Burnett to rattle a cage or two; can't wait to see that.

Wednesday 15/10/2008: Been a little while since I have been in here. Still getting stuff rolling in about my final write up of the under 16 tournament. Thanks for the compliments guys. It's all good fun. I note the Aussie Schoolboys knocked over those Kiwis in New Zealand, two years of dominance over the old rugby enemy is a good thing, and BSHS boy Eddie Quirk picking up the Man of the Match award after originally not being in the squad.

The Queensland Junior Reds programme moved to Goondiwindi yesterday. What a great roll up out there in the border town. While I don't make the decisions on who joins the college/Junior Reds programme, I thought there was a very nice array of talent and toughness turn up to Goondi. A key coach in the Goondi juniors informed me of a couple of gun prospects that were there, and Qld

Junior under 15 squad member Joe Frey turned up to showcase his wares. A really good afternoon, followed up with a nice storm, might be a bit late for some of the wheat, but beneficial to the later stuff and the summer crops, and city folk, trust me, you need this rain out here as much as the rural folks.

Sunday sees the schools rugby competition in Dalby, with schools like Goondiwindi State high School and Dalby State high School competing over the day. Still plenty of rugby going on if you know where to look.

Saturday 04/10/2008: All over, Queensland Red won it and of course Queensland White get second, in what was a great game of footy, in fact it was a great day of footy. Fantastic relaxed, almost carnivale type atmosphere. Prior to the game I was very lucky to be able to get to speak with one of the Red Team's coaches, one of the Red Team's players, and one of the Red Team's player's mums. Now the details of those chats will never be released, but the mood of the camp and the feeling for the day was certainly encompassed in what was said. A day in which Sydney Juniors beat their NSW Schools arch rivals to claim third. There will be more to follow, sometime over the weekend, and photos, just a few photos. [Match writeups here.](#) [Qld Red vs Qld White Photos](#)

Thursday 02/10/2008: Pretty much my last offering now until some time Saturday, I have to head down the coast after the footy for work, and will not be home until late Friday night. There will no doubt be plenty of other reports up before I get mine up so be sure and enjoy them. Plenty of messages today, and they all carried the one theme, and naturally got me thinking. Plenty of reasons to be happy, Qld will come first and second, for the first time ever in the Under 16's. We should be very happy as rugby supporters that this has occurred. We should be very supportive of those playing and those coaching and supporting; the campaign and methodology has proved a great success. Moreover, many congratulations to the Qld boys, you have done yourselves, your state, and your mums and dads very proud. On a wider note though, we should congratulate and thank every team that has made their way to Nudgee for the week, without you all there would have been no tournament. I for one hope that the last day is seen as a success, that you have all enjoyed your time in Qld, supporters too, and that the rugby memories and friendships last a lifetime, that is what the game is, was and always will be about. Trouble is, you often don't realize it until it is too late. Savour the moments, and have a safe journey home. I have lots of photos of many games, do bear with me you guys from other states. [Qld Red vs Sydney Juniors Photos.](#) [Qld White vs NSW Schools Photos](#)

Wednesday 01/10/2008: Finally a boilover, Qld White nail NSW Schools for a spot in the final against Qld Red. The NSW Schools side plays for 3 and 4 against Sydney Juniors, and NSW country play for 5 and 6 against The Brumbies. More to follow, but I am slightly deaf at the moment from the amount of whistling, and some really bizarre stuff from over zealous touchies. The guy standing beside me said it all: "Officialdom gone mad". I am also temporarily blinded from the reflection of sunlight hitting my eyes due to the over use of Yellow Cards. Never seen so many! [The day's action here:](#)

Tuesday 30/09/2008: NSW Country get really close to eliminating NSW Schools from the finals race, but just fall at the final hurdle. [All the National Under 16 stuff here:](#) [Qld White vs Vic photogallery:](#) [Qld Red vs Brumbies Photogallery](#)

Monday 29/09/2008: The National Under 16 rugby tournament is only hours from kick off, over there at Nudgee College. [See the day's draw here:](#) Looks like the weather will be perfect, but not for rugby, maybe 35 degrees, blistering sunshine, clear skies. That's what you get this time of year in Brisbane. QRU offices will largely be empty today, I expect a large contingent of observers over at Nudgee, along with any number of rugby league scouts and the usual array of parasite "player managers". What most of these blokes know about management could be engraved on a pinhead, there will no doubt be plenty of grief ahead for young players that will be told by them you "need" a manager, when nothing could be further from the truth.

The rugby league this particular weekend just gone was not of the quality of previous weeks. The Grand Final could be a little banal itself. However the week was dominated by talk of grapple tackles, and post match the Bellamy/Waldron spray at the NRL. Some of the grapple tackles are quite nasty, but don't think that outlawing the grapple will take wrestling out of the game, and nor should it, winning the battle on the ground, be it 1 second or 10 is a key to resetting your defensive line or running at a jagged defensive line. The focus of the wrestle will just change to the middle of the body, torso somewhere, they will have it worked out by next season. If you want to witness violence, real violence, get yourself a copy of the Manly vs Cronulla 1973 Grand Final. While any twisting and manipulation of the neck and head is or can be ugly, there was every form of violence available in this game, and plenty of it, and the football was about a 10th as fast, and a 10th as skilful. The continued increase in the pace of the game has brought about the need to win the contest on the ground, call it wrestling, call it what you will, but it will be a key part of both rugby codes, particularly rugby league for a long time to come.

Saturday 27/09/2008. [I hear Robbie Deans is running a coaching session for the NTS lads and coaches in Brisbane today. Suffice to say it is closed and yours truly is not allowed to attend. Rest assured, I would have been there in a heartbeat.](#)

[Word is that the Sydney Juniors Under 16 side are favourites for the Nationals tournament this year. I have to admit, the draw is set up for a NSW Schools vs Sydney Juniors final next Friday, a real old grudge match. I do like an underdog and the Juniors would be them, selected out of the club system in Sydney obviously and always play good, bruising rugby. Qld Red have a tough draw ahead of them, Brumbies on Monday, and assuming they win that, Sydney Juniors on Wednesday.](#)

[The 2008/9 Junior Reds \(formerly Regional Colleges\) are set to get underway, with a key meeting taking place yesterday with a potential service provider here in Toowoomba. The programme will definitely take more steps forward this time around, and it is really looking exciting in it's structure. Can't give too much away yet, but there are some very good developments about to be delivered in this current programme.](#)

[I hear many good things about Quade Cooper, how competitive he is for one. Looking at him last Sunday at the QJRU vs NSWJRU Under 17 match, he also looks incredibly fit, and has perhaps lost some of the excess muscle bulk he seemed to carry last year. Let's hope from a Qld perspective that he gets back to the form we know he can deliver, but also develops the supreme ability to concentrate through a whole game. From my perspective, it has been his mental application that has let him down. It will come with age, and he might turn 21 in 2009, so he could play for a year or two yet. He](#)

looks best when he underplays his hand for most of the game, and unleashes the freakish impossibilities every now and then.

I am going to tip that in 2009, James Slipper and Aidan Toua will make their Super 14 debuts. Aidan Toua, whose name as a search term still attracts hundreds in to this website is one thing, he is a back, but big James Slipper wears a number that is under 4, and at 19 will have taken huge, huge strides to butt down against the lies of Tony Woodcock from Auckland and The Beast from South Africa. James is a big boy in his own right at about the 120 kilo mark but it was always his ability with the footy that impressed me when he was playing schoolboy footy. Anyway, write those two down, see how I go in 2009.

Thursday 25/09/2008: Finally got the Downs Under 16 photos up, [find them here](#). Enough of Goughy at inside centre to have a gallery of his own.

Looking forward to the rugby league actually this weekend, some cracking match ups again. Cam Smith and Jeremy Smith out of that Melbourne lineup look to have weakened an already flat side, but, how many matches will/can Inglis be flat for. I'll be in the Warriors camp, get in with the underdog, some really good footballers in that side, and a genuine tough man in Ruben Wiki, that started his career way back when in Canberra as a centre, now a pretty fine prop. I was told yesterday, and I'd have to check, that 4 of the Warriors players come from the Downs area. I know Pricey is one but not sure of the other names mentioned.

Tuesday 23/09/2008: I have been hearing lots of good things out of the Queensland Under 16 preparation, which is a good thing. Word is that the attitudes are right, and that players and coaches are working together well. Let's hope so, and look for a big tilt against all the other competitors that will be flocking to Qld this coming weekend for the tournament at Nudgee. Very much looking forward to a few days off watching the tournament myself. There certainly has been some excellent underage, free to attend rugby on over the last few weeks, now unfortunately coming to an end, with just the three days of Under 16's remaining.

Rumours abound already about the 2009 GPS season. I already have several tips for the 2009 premiership, and gun players better than anyone has ever seen before just "turning up" at schools. Here's a tip guys, we have got the rest of 2008, then a long break, then cricket and other summer sports, some guys swim, then the rugby will start. It's a long, long time to season 2009, so let's not get too fussed about what might, will or could happen in 2009.

Monday 22/09/2008: *Plenty of rugby on over the weekend just gone, too much to get to it all to be honest. Friday night was the semi finals of the Ballymore Cup, at Ballymore of course, and on the main oval Mountain Creek State High School edged out Forest Lake State High School in semi Final one, and Rockhampton Grammar touched up Helensvale SHS in Semi Final 2. Gee the 13 and 5 looked the goods for Rocky. Rocky did not go on to win the tournament though, getting knocked over by Mountain Creek on Saturday. I would have backed them for all money given Friday night's performances. All of the other results are on the QRU website.*

Yesterday, Sunday 21/09/2008, and the Brisbane Junior Rugby Union Under 15 side took on a similar club based outfit from NSW, and lost narrowly, 31 to 22. NSW had a very efficient backrow, ably lead by their number 6 from Canterbury, a big, bruising ball carrier that may end up in the front

row as the years roll on. Boy he did some serious damage with ball in hand. Second game for the day was the QJRU (club) Under 17 vs a similar side from NSW, and the NSW side stitched Qld up by 40 odd to zero. NSW were again lead by a very efficient backrow in their 7 and 8, and were well served by their bone rattling Ma'a Nonu look alike at inside centre, also named MOM, their massive 13 and some other pacy operatives out wide. I noted Fox Sports senior rugby commentator Greg Clark there at Ballymore yesterday, and a Clark on the wing for the Under 15 NSW side, so guessing they may be related.

And again some absolutely riveting rugby league over the weekend just gone, two absolute blinders of games. You would have had to watch these two matches (Warriors vs Sydney City) and (Broncos vs Melbourne Storm) to appreciate the speed and sheer physicality of the contests, big, big men hitting each other very, very hard. Melbourne are flat, their big stars, as good as they are just seem a little off the boil. Not sure if they can win this thing from here. If the Sharks hadn't lost their five eighth, they could look the goods, along with Manly, but as the NRL has thrown up in the last couple of weeks, there may be surprises in store in the final round of semis.

Monday 15/09/2008: The Darling Downs junior rugby grand finals yesterday showed some spirited and entertaining rugby across four age groups, U13 to U16. My thoughts on them and some [pics here](#). [Pics of the Under 13 and Under 14 grand finals up here now](#), and a special 15manography feature photogallery on [old props coaching rugby](#). This is done at great risk to my personal health! [Under 15 Grand Final Pics](#).

Wednesday 17/09/2008: Still plenty of good junior and schools rugby on offer in 2008, with semi finals and finals of the Ballymore Cup on at Ballymore this Friday 19/09/2008 (Semi Finals) and Saturday 20/09/2008 (Final). This is another competition outside the "purist" area, and involves boys from lots of schools around Queensland. For example a tough tackling Goodniwindi State High School side (Joe Frey Under 15 and Ryan Howles Under 16 attend Goondi SHS) was knocked out just last week. There is a strong chance I will make the Friday afternoon match up. I do like non traditionalists playing the game, they have no preconceptions of how the game should be played. Of course on Saturday, the Dalby club takes on a touring Kenmore side, in Under 14 at least, out in Dalby. Probably have a look at that one as well to round out the weekend. The Under 14 match is at 10:30am. I understand the matches at Ballymore on Friday night kick off at 5:15pm.

Sunday 14/09/2008: Hasn't there been some magnificent rugby league this weekend? I know that I'll never be admitted to the hallowed halls of leather patch jacketed rugby followers that don't want to believe that another code exists, but, can anyone go past the confrontational physicality of the Broncos vs Roosters on Friday night, and isn't a correctly delivered shoulder charge something to behold. I have to agree with Phil Gould that rugby is a little soft in it's stance on this physical part of the game. Personally, as a coach, I'd be happy to see guys trying to shoulder charge, because it rarely comes off, and the ball carrier can hit, spin and dive into the space behind the hitter and create some real havoc. I see it as being much more risk for the hitting side than the side being hit. O'Meley's and Shillingford's were absolute crackers on Friday night, putting guys to sleep with massive hits. That's one of the reasons people will keep watching rugby league, they enjoy the brutal conflict and big hits as much as anything.

Locally yesterday, Saturday 13/09/2008, junior rugby league grand finals took place. I went and

watched the Under 16 match up that featured Ben Reuter (Gatton) (TGS) (Qld Red) number 6, Michael Bermingham (Souths) (St Mary's Toowoomba) (Qld Red Under 16 tighthead prop), Brandan Purcell (Souths) (Qld Under 16 triallist in the centres) (TGS, ex St Marys Toowoomba), Luke Ferry, (Souths), (Qld Under 16 triallist in the centres), (TGS), Ellis Jensen (Souths) (Concordia College) (Qld under 16 triallist at breakaway), Ned Mott (Souths), (TGS), (initial Qld Under 16 Squad member) and Nick Bergen (Souths) (Downlands outside centre). They were the dual code operatives that I knew. Pretty impressive list. For mine the players of that final were Ellis Jensen and Brandan Purcell, with Ellis wearing the number 12 jersey and Purcell getting alot of carries and weaving alot of magic out of lock forward, which leads me to my next point, Ned Mott and Brandan Purcell have been played hopelessly out of position by their schools. Mott's passing game and kicking game yesterday were very astute, and I think he is probably very suited to 10 or 12, Purcell definitely 10 or 12. I have to ask, and have been asking for years, why do these kids play much worse football at our local schools than they do, in what I would see as a much more physically confronting environment of club rugby league? I know I have the answer but to publish it would kick up a mountain of trouble on rights and wrongs amongst other things. Of course my old mate big Berm was reasonably damaging in limited forays, until he delivered a shoulder charge as good as any you would see in the NRL, putting old mate out for the count, and getting himself a send off, shoulder shots are illegal in junior rugby league, but it was one of the biggest I have seen including those on Friday night.

Of course we had the Bledisloe test match last night as well. Personally I thought it lacked something, far too stop start and mistake riddled. Giteau did some good things, but in reality if you analyze it had a shocker. I thought New Zealand were much more potent and dangerous with the subtle change of Nonu for Donald, and moving to the much more traditional New Zealand rugby style of dual playmakers. It really happened for them post that change, some clever substitutions there by Henry. I see plenty written and spoken about the test. I thought Kaplan, through over judicious refereeing took Richie McCaw out of the game. I like what the All blacks do at the tackle contest, if you note they get past the ball, well past the ball and turn their shoulders or one shoulder down and seal the ball. May be illegal under the Laws, but they are doing it at pace and with power, and asking the referee to "referee" the game. Australia just have to be faster and stronger to and at the tackle contest. It's of little use bagging the ref when he will probably referee both sides in the same fashion, and ref his perceptions of the laws, a thick publication with many grey areas, one of the things that makes the game great, the ability to find out how a ref perceives the laws, and the ability to apply alot of pressure to the man in the middle at test level.

Today of course is the Club junior Rugby Grand Finals here from Under 13 to Under 16, so I will be heading along there for a look and some photos as well. Would have loved to have taken some photos yesterday at the league, but I didn't have any permissions in place, so gave it a miss.

Saturday 06/09/2008: Regional College 2009 is about to get up and running. Hopefully the programme will show continued improvement over what we have delivered in the past. The structure will certainly be different, not quite so long and tedious, but with some camps in there, and hopefully access to the Reds staff at these things as well. Looking forward to getting into it, and hopefully helping to develop the next round of players from the Darling Downs. We have some names on

paper, and there will be a series of regional spotting days very soon, so watch this site and see when and where. I hope to attend them, but we want to take the programme to the regional areas this year as well, spread the net so to speak. Guys like Ellis Jensen and [Big Berm](#) will be expected to drive the programme's intensity in 2008/9, and that should be good, they are both nice, physical, direct players that are very easy to coach.

The week has seen two great coaches finish with their respective clubs in Brisbane, Wayne Bennett after 21 years at the helm of the Broncos, and Leigh Matthews at the Lions. Not being a real AFL fan, it is hard to comment on Matthews, but Bennett, has to go down as one of the greatest coaches of all time, in any code, up there with Jack Gibson. He is certainly one that develops better people, and develops mental toughness, and if you don't develop that way under him, then you go. Not much question he could coach rugby, and he is a sad loss to Qld. I also see this morning that the great talent spotter, former BSHS headmaster and 1st XV coach, and just all round great guy, Cyril Connell is to step down from the Broncos this year as well. The guy is 80 odd, and I have been hearing very ill. Quietly spoken and respected and revered by all, he will be another sad, sad loss to the Broncos. I can only say I was very privileged to have met him and shot the breeze with him over footballers he has seen over the years. I will never forget the day out at Dalby that we were chatting, amongst other greats like Rod Reddy, Arthur Beetson (name dropping there), and we were talking about the best footballers we had seen. I said that Berrick Barnes was the best I had seen; Cyril said he was the second best he had seen (as a fifteen year old). Upon asking, he had no hesitation in naming Darren Lockyer, and took me through how he heard about, went and watched and recruited this great man of rugby league.

Sitting around watching the Broncos vs the Knights last night, the conversation turned to a dream backline for Aussie rugby, suffice to say, not many of my "dream" are currently playing rugby. How could you go past a backline that looked like this: 9. Keiron Landers (I honestly believe that he would have made his international debut this year had he stuck with rugby, what he did in his Aussie Schoolboy year to fight back early from a broken jaw and displace Josh Holmes in the Aussie Schoolboy side was very tough and adult.), 10. Matt Giteau, 11. Tuqiri, 12. Greg Inglis, 13. Israel Folau, 14. Billy Slater, 15. Karmichael Hunt. Tough to leave Lockyer out, but I did as he is at the end of his career, but Hunt could play 13 and Lockyer 15. People keep asking me where to play Greg Inglis, and I say one of two things, 1. Any two positions in the backline at the same time, 2. If he wanted to play tight head prop, I'd let him. ([Forgot about this bloke, I would also throw Cooper Cronk into the 9/10 equation, and maybe even Cameron Smith. Are Melbourne going to be hard to beat in this year's NRL or not?](#))

Thursday 28/08/2008: So nice to see the Downs contingent still intact in the Qld Under 16 trials, also good to see what most would term the "dark horses" still in the mix, proving that you don't necessarily need to go to one of those elite schools to be able to mix it with those considered "the big boys" of rugby. In fact I think those that may consider themselves "big boys" in rugby because of where they go to school, will all struggle to mix it with Mick Birmingham, he is a human wrecking ball. We should also remember that Ben Reuter and Brandon Purcell were not at "rugby schools" in 2007, first year at TGS in 2008, and I will say I thought Purcell's talent set was poorly used there as well. Also excellent to see a dark horse there from Pittsworth High School, being another red head

from the escarpment, I sure hope he is laying them in the aisles like his red headed mate, Mick Bermingham And a last word for Ellis Jensen, from Concordia, I will write something on Ellis after he is either cut or the whole thing is over, just so you can understand what a world of pain he trialled through, and just so you can understand what tough does and can mean.

[A short page here on my views on the Under 16 trialling.](#) page should get some hits, readership needs a lift at the moment. Good to see the Wallabies get up in Africa, paid a heavy physical price though, week two will be enormous in Johannesburg, almost impossible to win there at the best of times, let alone with key players out.

Saturday, day 3 of the Under 15 tournament, photos that I grabbed can be [viewed here.](#)

Sunday 17/08/2008: What a spectacular day at Noosa. The footy field was very dry, but the day, what a cracker. Plenty of QRU and ARU hierarchy and dignitaries in attendance at the Under 15 titles. Lots of players going around, and a few that can really play, a few really hot prospects from Peninsula, Jordan Tighe the young flyhalf from Met West and IGS, but again, in the games that I watched, awfully hard to go past Chris F'Sautia (how it is spelt in the programme) in the game against the Darling Downs. He scored 3 or 4 or 5 tries, and missed a couple of others, demonstrated a big hit in defence, and has a marvellous fend, not unlike the big Greg Inglis one. Expect to hear plenty more of this lad. The 13 from South Coast also showed he can play the game pretty well. The Downs boys got a bit of a touch up in this game, and they didn't really react to how they should play against a side like this. It looked like a few boys went missing under the physical onslaught, which can happen, the scrum got ripped open and it all fell apart from there. Anyway, we will write some more as the day goes on, and put some photos up over the week. I probably will be in strife for taking them, but I did, so we will see what happens on that front. I think the Downs boys can beat a very poorly disciplined Met North side this afternoon. [Read my wrap on a single day's viewing here:](#)

Friday 15/08/2008: Word through from the Schoolboy Under 15 tournament that the Downs boys won both their encounters yesterday. The gentleman that rang me also said that players performing well were Macalister Gee (flyhalf, very impressed with is vision and game sense), Angus Ryan and Keiran Fitzgibbon. The Downs side was expected to win one game, but apparently not two. Nothing beats a good start in these tournaments.

That young schoolboy, Jordan Rankin, 16 years old, making his debut for the Titans on Monday night. I have to hope they know what they are doing, at 16 you have to be something special to be even considered, but had the game been against the Sea Eagles, or Melbourne, he may have got killed. Imagine someone like Cement Gillespie whacking a 16 year old. I wish the lad luck, just hope that he has not been blooded with the really big boys too early.

Sunday 03/08/2008 saw Darling Downs Junior Rugby kick off it's club premiership round, and it was very good to see alot of boys turning out for this competition, an Under 15 team from Warwick as well. I remember turning up to grounds 5 or 6 years ago hoping that an opposition would turn up, this day saw plenty of action, on two fields, accredited refs, grounds ready to go, ambulance or medical personnel in place. For those of you that believe rugby revolves around 9 games of school footy each year, I have never seen it that way, and club footy is a great forum allowing people that don't

attend these schools to play and enjoy the code. I am sure that there are more names out there than this one, but watch the name Caleb Stoddard over the next few years, currently Under 14, outside the "school" system, big tough, ball playing lock. This lad will go a long way, and I have some great shots of him among others from Sunday to put up later, so check back for them. Caleb will also be in action for the Darling Downs under 15 schoolboy side next week at Noosa.

This week (Wednesday 06/08/2008) also sees the third term schools rugby get under way, again an alternative competition that takes rugby to more people. This competition was fiercely contested 5 or 6 years ago, with the league rivalries of St Josephs, St Mary's Toowoomba and Dalby and Harristown making for some very physical and hard fought encounters. The competition has died off of late, but Russell Jackson from Mt Lofty has taken on the running of it this year. Jacko is a local rugby stalwart, and teacher at Lofty, that will run the show pretty well. Already a name to watch here is Blake Johnson, a 12 or 13 with a really strong skillset, has impressed us all so far. I am sure there will be more that do, there always are from this competition.

From the two rugby areas mentioned above, remember the following names, Mark Appleton, St Mary's Dalby, Qld Schools 1 in 2007, Michael Bermingham, St Mary's Toowoomba, Qld Under 15 2007 and I am sure will give Qld Red under 16 a tremendous nudge in 2008.

Saturday 01/03/2008, Friday night club rugby was interesting last night, and some comparisons were drawn to league programmes, I give myself and [my counterpart a massive rap here](#), probably important that you all get yourself a coffee and read this, I was taken to task last night over Broncos programme vs College programme, and we are doing just fine. I expect some heat over this piece, but what the hell, I am pretty pumped up at the moment, few things starting to come together.

I go out to have a look at Friday night footy up here on the Downs, and I'm in strife with referees, standing on my own, minding my own business and I'm still in strife with them, we sure have had an ongoing relationship over the years, read my latest [stoush here](#): I haven't watched any games yet, but I note Qld went down, and McMeniman may be out for a long time, they can't afford that, he is the starch of the pack in the limited time he spends on the field, and also note the Force got up narrowly. I'm two from two in a good tipping start to the weekend. A little on the [games of the Super 14 in week 2 to date here](#), will update as we go.

Here is a little continuation of my tough guy outlook, using as an example, the Darling Downs' own version of tough, Michael O'Leary. [Have a look at it](#), seems you all just lap up everything I write, as poor as it is at times, and has been lately.

I meant to mention in my book review, on Andrew Johns' book "The Two of Me" about one of the strange characters he outlined in one of the chapters. The guy was Adam McDougall, and he was allegedly before his time in his diet and training regime. One of the bizarre things he used to do was suck egg white out of a bladder all day and all night, and used to drink down alot of eggs worth of egg whites every day. One can only hope that he was sucking down Sunny Queen Egg whites. As good as Sunny Queen Eggs are, I just couldn't suck down a couple of dozen raw, chilled egg whites every day, but if I could, I would only choose Sunny Queen!

Here is the very first of my 2008 offerings, a book review. I was going to rush out and buy "The Two of Me", but decided it might turn up at Christmas, and it did, twice. Have a look at my [book review](#)

[here.](#) *Also a very brief look at 2007*